

CRS Report for Congress

Taiwan: Major U.S. Arms Sales Since 1990

Updated August 4, 2008

Shirley Kan
Specialist in Asian Security Affairs
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division



Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 04 AUG 2008		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2008 to 00-00-2008	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Taiwan: Major U.S. Arms Sales Since 1990				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave, SE, Washington, DC, 20540-7500				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 60	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

Taiwan: Major U.S. Arms Sales Since 1990

Summary

This report, updated as warranted, discusses U.S. security assistance to Taiwan, or Republic of China (ROC), including policy issues for Congress and legislation. Congress has oversight of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), P.L. 96-8, which has governed arms sales to Taiwan since 1979, when the United States recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC) instead of the ROC. Two other relevant parts of the "one China" policy are the August 17, 1982, U.S.-PRC Joint Communique and the "Six Assurances" to Taiwan. U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have been significant. The United States also has expanded military ties with Taiwan after the PRC's missile firings in 1995-1996. However, there is no defense treaty with Taiwan.

At the U.S.-Taiwan arms sales talks on April 24, 2001, President George W. Bush approved for possible sale diesel-electric submarines, P-3 anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft (linked to the submarine sale), four decommissioned U.S. Kidd-class destroyers, and other items. Bush also deferred decisions on Aegis-equipped destroyers and other items, while denying other requests. Since then, attention has turned to Taiwan, where the military, civilian officials, and legislators from competing political parties have debated contentious issues about how much to spend on defense and which U.S. weapons systems to acquire, despite the increasing threat (including a missile buildup) from the People's Liberation Army (PLA), as described in the Pentagon's reports to Congress on PRC military power. In February 2003, the Administration pointed Taiwan to three priorities for defense: command and control, missile defense, and ASW. Some in the United States have questioned Taiwan's seriousness about its self-defense, level of defense spending, and protection of secrets. The Pentagon has broadened its focus from Taiwan's arms purchases to its regular defense budget, readiness for self-defense, and critical infrastructure protection. Blocked by the opposition-controlled Legislative Yuan (LY), the Special Budget (not passed) for submarines, P-3C ASW aircraft, and PAC-3 missile defense systems was cut from \$18 billion in 2004 to \$9 billion (for submarines only) in 2005. In March 2006, Taiwan's defense minister requested a 2006 Supplemental Defense Budget (not passed) in part for submarine procurement, P-3Cs, and PAC-2 upgrades (not new PAC-3 missiles). In June 2007, the LY passed Taiwan's 2007 defense budget with funds for P-3C planes, PAC-2 upgrades, and F-16C/D fighters. While the LY did not commit to buy subs, in December 2007, it approved \$62 million to start the design phase. The Navy accepted Taiwan's formal request for this phase.

Since then, congressional concerns have increased about the lack of progress made by the Administration on a number of approved, pending arms sales programs as well as its refusal to accept a request from Taiwan for F-16C/D fighters. Another issue is how Congress should assert its role in determining security assistance, defense commitments, or policy reviews. This role involves oversight of the President's compliance with the TRA. In the 110th Congress, **S. 1565** and **H.R. 3912** would authorize a sale of excess naval minehunters. In October 2007, the House passed **H.Res. 676** to urge the President to consider Taiwan's interest since 2006 in buying F-16C/D fighters. Suspecting a freeze, Members have questioned Bush's delay in notifying Congress on eight pending weapon programs valued as much as \$13 billion. Also, **H.R. 6646** would require detailed briefings to Congress.

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Taiwan: Major U.S. Arms Sales Since 1990

U.S. Policy

This CRS Report discusses U.S. security assistance for Taiwan, formally called the Republic of China (ROC), including policy issues for Congress. It also lists sales of major defense articles and services to Taiwan, as approved by the Administration, proposed in Letters of Offer and Acceptance, and notified to Congress since 1990. The discussion uses a variety of unclassified consultations in the United States and Taiwan, as well as open source citations.

Role of Congress

The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), P.L. 96-8, has governed U.S. arms sales to Taiwan since 1979, when the United States recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC) instead of the ROC. The TRA specifies that it is U.S. policy, among the stipulations: to consider any nonpeaceful means to determine Taiwan's future "a threat" to the peace and security of the Western Pacific and of "grave concern" to the United States; "to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character;" and "to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion" jeopardizing the security, or social or economic system of Taiwan's people. Section 3(a) states that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability." The TRA also specifies a congressional role in decision-making on security assistance for Taiwan. Section 3(b) stipulates that both the President and the Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of such defense articles and services "based solely" upon their judgment of the needs of Taiwan. Section 3(b) also says that "such determination of Taiwan's defense needs shall include review by United States military authorities in connection with recommendations to the President and the Congress." The TRA set up the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), a nonprofit corporation, to handle the relationship with Taiwan. AIT implements policy as directed by the Departments of Defense and State, and the National Security Council (NSC) of the White House. They have controlled notifications to Congress of pending major arms sales, as required by the Arms Export Control Act, P.L. 90-629.

There are two other elements of the "one China" policy relevant to the issue of arms sales to Taiwan. President Reagan agreed with the PRC on the August 17, 1982 Joint Communiqué on reducing arms sales to Taiwan, but he also clarified that arms sales will continue in accordance with the TRA and with the full expectation that the PRC's approach to the resolution of the Taiwan issue will be peaceful. At the same time, Reagan offered "Six Assurances" to Taipei, including assurances that Washington had not agreed to set a date for ending arms sales to Taiwan nor to

consult with Beijing on arms sales to Taiwan. (See CRS Report RL30341, *China/Taiwan: Evolution of the “One China” Policy*, by Shirley A. Kan.)

Broad Indicators of Arms Transfers

As for U.S. arms transfers to Taiwan, they have been significant despite the absence of a diplomatic relationship or a treaty alliance. The value of *deliveries* of U.S. defense articles and services to Taiwan totaled \$5.8 billion in the 1999-2002 period and \$4.1 billion in 2003-2006. Among worldwide customers, Taiwan ranked 2nd (behind Saudi Arabia) in 1999-2002 and 4th (behind Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia) in 2003-2006. In 2006 alone, Taiwan ranked 5th among worldwide recipients, receiving \$970 million in U.S. defense articles and services. Values for U.S. agreements with and deliveries to Taiwan are summarized below.¹

	1999-2002 period	2003-2006 period
U.S. Agreements	\$1.1 billion	\$1.1 billion
U.S. Deliveries	\$5.8 billion	\$4.1 billion

From *worldwide* sources, including the United States, Taiwan received \$10 billion in arms *deliveries* in the eight-year period from 1999 to 2006. Taiwan ranked 6th among leading recipients that are developing countries. Of that total, Taiwan received \$5.9 billion in arms in 1999-2002 and \$4.1 billion in 2003-2006. In 2006 alone, Taiwan ranked 5th and received \$1.0 billion in arms deliveries, while the PRC ranked 2nd and received arms valued at \$2.9 billion. As an indication of future arms acquisitions, Taiwan’s arms *agreements* in 2002-2005 totaled \$4.9 billion. However, in 2003-2006, the value of agreements with Taiwan did not place it among the top 10 recipients among developing countries.²

Military Relationship

“Software Initiative”. In addition to transfers of hardware, beginning after the crisis in the Taiwan Strait in 1995-1996 during which President Clinton deployed two aircraft carrier battle groups near Taiwan in March 1996, the Pentagon quietly expanded the sensitive military relationship with Taiwan to levels unprecedented

¹ CRS Report RL34291, *U.S. Arms Sales: Agreements with and Deliveries to Major Clients, 1999-2006*, December 20, 2007, by Richard F. Grimmett; compiled with U.S. official, unclassified data as reported by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).

² CRS Report RL33696, *Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations, 1998-2005*, October 23, 2006, and CRS Report RL34187, *Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations, 1999-2006*, September 26, 2007, by Richard F. Grimmett; compiled from DSCA data.

since 1979.³ The broader exchanges have increased attention to “software,” including discussions over strategy, training, logistics, command and control, etc.

Also, Taiwan’s F-16 fighter pilots have trained at Luke Air Force Base, AZ, since 1997. However, in 2004, Taiwan’s Minister of Defense Lee Jye surprisingly wanted to withdraw the pilots and fighters.⁴ In response, the Defense Department stressed the value of continuing the training program to develop “mission ready and experienced pilots” with improved tactical proficiency shown by graduated pilots who have “performed brilliantly,” as explicitly notified to Congress.⁵

In July 2001, after U.S. and Taiwan media reported on the “Monterey Talks,” a U.S.-Taiwan national security meeting that was originally held in Monterey, CA, the Pentagon revealed it was the seventh meeting (since 1997) held with Taiwan’s national security authorities “to discuss issues of interaction and means by which to provide for the defense of Taiwan.”⁶ Another round of such strategic talks took place in July 2002.⁷ The 11th round of the talks took place in late September 2005, after the Bush Administration postponed the meeting by a couple of weeks to accommodate PRC ruler Hu Jintao’s scheduled visit to Washington on September 7 (which was then postponed because of President Bush’s response to Hurricane Katrina).⁸

These exchanges were prompted by increasing U.S. concerns about Taiwan’s self-defense capabilities. At a conference on Taiwan’s defense in March 2002, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said that the United States wanted to help Taiwan’s military to strengthen civilian control, enhance jointness, and rationalize arms acquisitions.⁹ In April 2004, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Peter Rodman told Congress that the Pentagon believed Taiwan’s military needed to improve readiness, planning, and interoperability among its services.¹⁰

³ Mann, Jim, “U.S. Has Secretly Expanded Military Ties with Taiwan,” *LA Times*, July 24, 1999; Kurt M. Campbell (former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs) and Derek J. Mitchell, “Crisis in the Taiwan Strait?,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2001.

⁴ *Jane’s Defense Weekly*, October 9, 2004 and June 29, 2005; and author’s consultations.

⁵ DSCA, notification to Congress, October 25, 2005 (see list at end of this CRS Report).

⁶ *China Times (Taiwan)*, July 18, 2001; *Washington Times*, July 18, 2001; Department of Defense News Briefing, July 19, 2001.

⁷ *Central News Agency*, Taipei, July 17, 2002.

⁸ Project for a New American Century, August 26, 2005; *Taipei Times*, September 15, 2005.

⁹ Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, “Remarks to the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council,” March 11, 2002.

¹⁰ Testimony before the House International Relations Committee, hearing on “The Taiwan Relations Act: The Next 25 Years,” April 21, 2004.

Assessments. The Pentagon has also conducted its own assessments of Taiwan's defense needs, with over a dozen studies from 1997 to early 2004.¹¹ Congress could inquire about these assessments and any other reports. In September 1999, to enhance cooperation, a Pentagon team was said to have visited Taiwan to assess its air defense capability.¹² The Pentagon reportedly completed its classified assessment in January 2000, finding a number of problems in the Taiwan military's ability to defend against aircraft, ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles, and those problems included international isolation, inadequate security, and sharp inter-service rivalries.¹³ In September 2000, the Pentagon reportedly conducted a classified assessment of Taiwan's naval defense needs — as the Clinton Administration had promised in April 2000 while deferring a sale of Aegis-equipped destroyers. The report, "Taiwan Naval Modernization," was said to have found that Taiwan's navy needed the Aegis radar system, Kidd-class destroyers, submarines, an anti-submarine underwater sonar array, and P-3 anti-submarine aircraft.¹⁴ In January 2001, a Pentagon team reportedly examined Taiwan's command and control, air force equipment, and air defense against a first strike.¹⁵ In September 2001, a Defense Department team reportedly visited Taiwan to assess its army, as the Bush Administration promised in the April 2001 round of arms sales talks.¹⁶ In August 2002, a U.S. military team studied Taiwan's Po Sheng command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) program.¹⁷ In November 2002, another U.S. team visited Taiwan to assess its marine corps and security at ports and harbors, and reported positive findings.¹⁸ In November 2003, a U.S. defense team visited Taiwan to assess its anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability and rated the overall capability as poor.¹⁹

Normalized Relations. The George W. Bush Administration has continued the Clinton Administration's initiative and expanded the closer military ties at different levels. In April 2001, President Bush announced he would drop the 20-year-old annual arms talks process used to discuss arms sales to Taiwan's military

¹¹ Statement of Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Peter Rodman at a hearing on "The Taiwan Relations Act: The Next 25 Years" held by the House International Relations Committee on April 21, 2004.

¹² "U.S. Military Team Arrives in Taiwan for Visit," *Lien-ho Pao [United Daily News]*, Sept. 19, 1999, in *FBIS*.

¹³ Ricks, Thomas, "Taiwan Seen as Vulnerable to Attack," *Washington Post*, March 31, 2000.

¹⁴ Tsao, Nadia, "Pentagon Report Says Taiwan Can Handle AEGIS," *Taipei Times*, September 27, 2000; Michael Gordon, "Secret U.S. Study Concludes Taiwan Needs New Arms," *New York Times*, April 1, 2001.

¹⁵ *China Times* (Taiwan), January 14, 2001; *Taipei Times*, January 15, 2001.

¹⁶ *Taipei Times* (Taiwan), September 10, 2001.

¹⁷ *Taiwan Defense Review* (Taiwan), August 27, 2002.

¹⁸ *Taipei Times*, November 21, 2002; January 1, 2003; *Tzu-Yu Shih-Pao [Liberty Times]* (Taipei), April 14, 2003; *Taipei Times*, August 22, 2003.

¹⁹ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, December 3, 2003; *Taiwan Defense Review*, January 12, 2004; *Jane's Defense Weekly*, June 30, 2004.

in favor of normal, routine considerations of Taiwan's requests on an as-needed basis — similar to interactions with other foreign governments.²⁰

U.S. military officers observed Taiwan's Hankuang-17 annual military exercise in 2001, the first time since 1979.²¹ The Pacific Command's Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies accepted fellows from Taiwan in its Executive Course for the first time in the summer of 2002.²² By the summer of 2002, the U.S. and Taiwan militaries reportedly discussed setting up an undersea ASW link to monitor the PLA Navy's submarines.²³ The U.S. and Taiwan militaries set up a hotline in 2002 to deal with possible crises.²⁴

In addition, in 2002, the Administration asked Congress to pass legislation to authorize the assignment of personnel from U.S. departments (including the Defense Department) to AIT, allowing the assignment of active-duty military personnel to Taiwan for the first time since 1979. The objective was to select from a wider range of personnel, without excluding those on active duty. The first active-duty defense attache since 1979, an Army Colonel began his duty in Taipei in August 2005 with civilian clothes and a status similar to military attaches assigned to Hong Kong, except that military personnel in Hong Kong may wear uniforms at some occasions.²⁵

Also, the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Michael Wynne, submitted a letter to Congress on August 29, 2003, that designated Taiwan as a "major non-NATO ally." (See *107th Congress* below.)

Senior-Level Exchanges. The United States and Taiwan have held high-level defense-related meetings in the United States. The Bush Administration granted a visa for Defense Minister Tang Yiau-ming to visit the United States to attend an industry conference held by the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council on March 10-12, 2002 (in St. Petersburg, FL), making him the first ROC defense minister to

²⁰ On the annual arms talks, see CRS Report RS20365, *Taiwan: Annual Arms Sales Process*, by Shirley A. Kan.

²¹ *Chung-Kuo Shih-Pao* [China Times], Taipei, July 18, 2001. The *China Times* (May 27, 2004) quotes Defense Minister Lee Jye confirming that U.S. military personnel observed Hankuang-17, Hankuang-18, and Hankuang-19 exercises to evaluate Taiwan's military.

²² *CNN.com*, March 18, 2002; Author's discussions in Hawaii in July 2002.

²³ *Tzu-Yu Shih-Pao* [Liberty Times], Taipei, July 20, 2002.

²⁴ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, October 29, 2003.

²⁵ In addition to Colonel Al Willner, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) assigned Army Colonel Peter Notarianni to oversee security assistance programs at AIT in Taipei. A notice was released: Department of Defense, DSCA contract awarded to AIT to support DSCA active-duty military and civil service personnel, September 24, 2005.

come to the United States on a nontransit purpose since 1979.²⁶ Tang met with Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, who also spoke at the conference.²⁷

However, after that visit in 2002, Taiwan's defense minister has declined to travel to the United States. In September 2002, a deputy defense minister, Kang Ning-hsiang, visited Washington and was the first senior Taiwan defense official to have meetings inside the Pentagon since U.S.-ROC diplomatic ties severed in 1979, although a meeting with Wolfowitz took place outside the Pentagon.²⁸ In January 2003, a Taiwanese newspaper leaked information that a U.S. military team planned to participate in — beyond observe — the Hankuang-19 military exercise and be present at Taiwan's Hengshan Command Center for the first time since 1979.²⁹ On the same day, General Chen Chao-min, a deputy defense minister, confirmed to Taiwan's legislature a U.S. plan for a noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO). However, the leak and confirmation reportedly prompted annoyance in Washington and contributed to a U.S. decision to limit General Chen's visit to the United States in February 2003 to attendance at a private sector conference on Taiwan's defense (in San Antonio, TX), without a visit to Washington.³⁰ Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randall Schriver met with General Chen. In October 2004, Taiwan's Deputy Minister for Armaments, General Huoh Shoou-yeh, attended a U.S.-Taiwan defense industry conference (in Scottsdale, AZ), instead of Defense Minister Lee Jye. In May 2005, the Chief of General Staff, General Lee Tien-yu, visited the United States, but he was the first Chief of General Staff from Taiwan willing to make the biennial visit since General Tang Fei's visit in 1998.³¹ In September 2005, Deputy Minister Huoh again attended a U.S.-Taiwan defense industry conference (in San Diego, CA). Deputy Defense Minister Ko Chen-heng attended the next conference in September 2006 (in Denver, CO). At the conference in September 2007 (in Annapolis, MD), Deputy Minister Ko again represented Taiwan, as Defense Minister Lee Tien-yu declined to visit the United States.

The Hankuang-19 exercise took place in April-May 2003, with participation by about 20 U.S. military personnel and retired Admiral Dennis Blair, who just resigned as the Commander of the Pacific Command (PACOM). (Blair has led U.S. observers through the Hankuang-24 exercise in June 2008.) The exercise reportedly raised questions about the military's will to fight and ability to sustain defense before possible U.S. support.³² Deputy Defense Minister Lin Chong-pin visited Washington

²⁶ In December 2001, the previous ROC Defense Minister, Wu Shih-wen, made a U.S. transit on his way to the Dominican Republic.

²⁷ Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, "Remarks to the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council," March 11, 2002.

²⁸ *Reuters*, September 10, 2002.

²⁹ *Chung-Kuo Shih-Pao [China Times]*, January 2, 2003.

³⁰ *Taiwan Defense Review*, January 18, 2003; *Straits Times* (Singapore), January 21, 2003.

³¹ *Lien-Ho Pao [United Daily News]* (Taipei), May 26, 2005.

³² *Lien-Ho Pao [United Daily News]* (Taipei), April 16, 2003; *China Times* (Taipei), April (continued...)

in June 2003 to respond to concerns about Taiwan's commitment to self-defense. The Hankuang-20 exercise included a reportedly U.S.-provided computer simulation in August 2004 that resulted in the PLA invading and capturing the capital, Taipei, within six days.³³ In April 2006, Taiwan's president and other top officials held a Yushan exercise to improve homeland security and prepare for a "decapitation" attack by the PRC, with no U.S. participation.³⁴ In April 2008, U.S. officials, including AIT Director Stephen Young, observed the Yushan exercise for the first time, but the KMT party in Taiwan criticized the inclusion of U.S. officials.

April 2001 Arms Requests and Status of Arms Sales

April 2001 Decisions. In 2001, arms sales talks took place on April 24 in Washington, DC, and Taiwan was represented by its Vice Chief of General Staff, General Huoh Shou-yeh. According to the Administration and news reports,³⁵ President Bush *approved* Taiwan's request for: 8 diesel-electric submarines; 12 P-3C Orion anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft (linked to the submarine sale); 54 Mark-48 ASW torpedoes; 44 Harpoon submarine-launched anti-ship cruise missiles; 144 M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzers; 54 AAV7A1 amphibious assault vehicles; AN/ALE-50 electronic countermeasure (ECM) systems for F-16s; and 12 MH-53 mine-sweeping helicopters. Also approved for sale were four decommissioned Kidd-class destroyers, offered as Excess Defense Articles (EDA), not FMS. The Administration also decided to brief Taiwan's military on the PAC-3 missile defense missile.³⁶

President Bush *deferred* decisions on destroyers equipped with the Aegis combat system. Bush also deferred decisions on M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks and AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters, pending a U.S. assessment of Taiwan's army. (The request for Abrams tanks was approved later in 2001.)³⁷

President Bush *denied* Taiwan's requests for Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) and High-speed Anti-radiation Missiles (HARM) that target radar-equipped air defense systems. (At the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council's conference in February 2003, however, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force Willard Mitchell indicated

³² (...continued)

19, 2003; *Taipei Times*, April 25, 2003; *Central News Agency* (Taipei), May 9, 2003.

³³ *AFP*, August 11, 2004; *Taiwan News*, August 12, 2004.

³⁴ *Liberty Times* (Taipei), April 13 and 16, 2006; and author's interviews in Taipei.

³⁵ White House, press briefing, April 24, 2001; Department of Defense, news briefing, April 24, 2001; David Sanger, "Bush is Offering Taiwanese Some Arms, But Not the Best," *New York Times*, April 24, 2001; Steven Mufson and Dana Milbank, "Taiwan to Get Variety of Arms," *Washington Post*, April 24, 2001; Neil King Jr., "Bush Defers Sale of Aegis to Taiwan, Will Offer Four Kidd-Class Destroyers," *Wall Street Journal*, April 24, 2001; "U.S. Refuses Taiwan Request for JDAM, HARM, and PAC-3 Missiles," *Aerospace Daily*, April 25, 2001; and "U.S. Formally Informs ROC of Arms Sales Decision," *Central News Agency* (Taiwan), April 25, 2001.

³⁶ *Taiwan Defense Review*, January 18, 2003, reported the briefing took place in late 2001.

³⁷ Mark Stokes, "Taiwan's Security: Beyond the Special Budget," AEI, March 27, 2006.

that these requests were under review. A possible basis for reviewing any renewed requests from Taiwan was found in the Pentagon's report on PRC Military Power submitted in July 2003 to Congress, which confirmed that the PLA procured from Israel "a significant number of HARPY anti-radiation systems." The press first reported on the PLA's acquisition of the HARPY drones in 2002.³⁸ By the second half of 2004, the Administration reportedly considered a new request for HARM missiles (submitted in August 2004), while a decision on JDAM guidance kits also remained pending.³⁹ However, in 2005, the Administration denied these requests.⁴⁰

Taiwan's Decisions. After the U.S. response to Taiwan's requests in 2001, attention turned to Taiwan, where the military, civilian officials, and competing political parties in a newly assertive legislature (Legislative Yuan, or LY) have debated contentious issues. These issues include the urgency of a possible PLA attack, how much to spend on defense, which U.S. weapons systems to buy, whether to respond to perceived U.S. pressure, and what the defense strategy should be. The debate has taken place as the Pentagon has warned of the PLA's accelerated buildup in a coercive strategy targeting Taiwan. In early 2003, the Bush Administration stressed to Taiwan the imperatives of missile defense, C4ISR, and anti-submarine defenses. In March 2003, Taiwan's Defense Ministry issued a new procurement plan emphasizing those priorities.⁴¹ However, setting priorities for its national security, getting a political consensus, and funding defense programs have remained contentious in Taiwan's politicized debate over national security.

Amphibious Assault Vehicles. Taiwan agreed to purchase the AAV7A1 amphibious assault vehicles, under a program administered by the U.S. Marine Corps. The Administration notified Congress in September 2002. United Defense Industries obtained a contract in June 2003, and deliveries began in March 2005.⁴²

Attack and Utility Helicopters. After deferring a decision on Taiwan's request for attack helicopters, the Bush Administration, in May 2002, approved the request, and Taiwan began negotiations on 30 AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters sold by Boeing.⁴³ Afterwards, Taiwan also considered the AH-1Z Cobra helicopters sold by Bell.⁴⁴ In April 2007, Taiwan's military decided to procure 30 Apaches.⁴⁵ Also, Taiwan requested price and availability data for acquisition of 60 utility

³⁸ *Washington Times*, July 2, 2002; *Guangzhou Daily* (via FBIS), July 4, 2002; *Ha'aretz*, Tel Aviv, July 25, 2002; *Flight International*, November 5-11, 2002.

³⁹ *Taiwan News*, October 6, 2004; *Washington Times*, October 8, 2004; *Taiwan Defense Review*, November 26, 2004.

⁴⁰ Wendell Minnick, "U.S. Rejects Taiwan Request for HARM and JDAM Kits," *Jane's Defense Weekly*, January 18, 2006.

⁴¹ *Taiwan Defense Review*, March 12, 2003.

⁴² *Jane's International Defense Review*, September 2003; *Taiwan Defense Review*, March 4, 2005.

⁴³ *Taipei Times*, May 26, 2002; *Jane's Defense Weekly*, June 5, 2002.

⁴⁴ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, March 10 and 24, 2004.

⁴⁵ *AFP*, April 12, 2007; *Lien-Ho Pao*, July 9, 2007; *Defense News*, July 16, 2007.

helicopters.⁴⁶ In 2005, Bell proposed its UH-1Y Huey utility helicopter, and Sikorsky proposed its UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters as replacement for Taiwan's UH-1H Huey utility helicopters. In the LY in December 2007, inter-party negotiations and the final decision approved about \$203 million but froze two-thirds, or \$135 million, for 60 UH-60M utility helicopters (total cost of about \$2.2 billion). Also in the 2008 defense budget, the LY approved \$228 million for 30 Apache helicopters (total cost of about \$1.8 billion).

Kidd-Class Destroyers. In October 2002, the Defense Committee of Taiwan's legislature engaged in a sharp partisan debate over whether to approve funding (about \$800 million) to buy the U.S. Navy's four currently available Kidd-class destroyers, ending with 18 lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) voting in favor, against 16 legislators from the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) and People's First Party (PFP).⁴⁷ Then, legislators conditioned funding on bargaining with the U.S. Navy on a 15% price reduction. On May 30, 2003, Taiwan's legislature finally voted to release the funding. The U.S. Navy began reactivation and upgrade of the Kidds in July 2003⁴⁸ for delivery of the 9,600-ton destroyers ahead of schedule from October 2005 to 2006. Taiwan's Naval Commander-in-Chief, Marine General Chen Pang-chih, attended the transfer ceremony in Charleston, SC, for the first two destroyers on October 29, 2005, in the presence of Representative Henry Brown. The destroyers, the largest warships in Taiwan's navy, are equipped with SM-2 air-defense missiles and a joint combat management system. The transfer ceremony for the final two Kidds took place in Charleston, SC, on August 25, 2006.

Aegis-Equipped Destroyers. The Department of Defense considered the Kidds as platforms to provide Taiwan's navy with the necessary operational experience before any possible acquisition of more advanced Aegis-equipped ships.⁴⁹ The U.S. Navy deploys the Aegis combat system (e.g., on the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer) for air defense and applies it in development of a future Navy missile defense system (using SM-3 missiles). An alternative to the Arleigh Burke that retains the Aegis Spy-1D radar, called the Evolved Advanced Combat System (EACS) has been considered. The Aegis combat system has the capability to track over 100 targets and to conduct simultaneous anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine operations. During the U.S. war in Iraq in 2003, the Aegis combat system helped the Patriot missile defense system to detect and intercept Iraqi missiles.⁵⁰ In

⁴⁶ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, August 24, 2005; *Defense News*, July 16, 2007.

⁴⁷ Author's visit to Taiwan; and *Taipei Times* and *China Post* (Taipei), November 1, 2002.

⁴⁸ *Taipei Times*, September 5, 2003; *Taiwan Defense Review*, March 10, 2004; *Taipei Times*, September 15, 2004; *Jane's Defense Weekly*, November 10, 2004.

⁴⁹ Consultations; and Wendell Minnick, "What Those Systems are All About," *Topics*, November 2004.

⁵⁰ Discussion with Lockheed Martin executive, June 10, 2004; and U.S. Army, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, TX, "Operation Iraqi Freedom: Theater Air and Missile Defense," September 2003.

2002, Taiwan requested four Arleigh Burke-class, Aegis-equipped destroyers, for delivery in 2010 and at a cost of about \$4.8 billion, but got no U.S. response.⁵¹

Submarines. Despite initial skepticism about the Bush Administration's April 2001 agreement to sell Taiwan submarines (since the United States no longer manufactures diesel-electric submarines), the Department of Defense has discussed options for a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program for eight boats with U.S. and foreign companies and Taiwan. In addition to the military and political implications of selling submarines to Taiwan's navy, issues for Congress include potential technology transfers to Taiwan and European countries, and leaks of secrets from Taiwan to the PRC, that could involve U.S. submarine secrets and implications for the U.S. military.⁵² In a report to Congress, as required by the National Defense Authorization Act for FYs 1992-1993, the Secretary of the Navy reported in May 1992 that "to the extent that a potential diesel submarine construction project would draw on U.S. resources, it has the potential to tap into the state-of-the-art technology used in U.S. nuclear powered submarines." The report also noted "the fact that the diesel submarine is not a viable asset in the U.S. Navy" and that "construction of diesel submarines for export in U.S. shipyards would not support the U.S. submarine shipbuilding base and could encourage future development and operation of diesel submarines to the detriment of our own forces." The report also said that "it may be possible to control the release of the most important information and specific technologies of concern, but an effective system would also have significant costs. The problem will be more difficult, however, if a foreign entity is present in the shipyards during submarine construction."

In November 2001, seven companies submitted bids and concept papers to the Department of the Navy. Companies interested in the contract reportedly include U.S. manufacturers, Northrop Grumman (with its Ingalls Shipbuilding shipyard) and General Dynamics (with its Electric Boat shipyard); Germany's HDW; the Netherlands' RDM (which sold its Zwaardvis-class submarine design to Taiwan in the 1980s for two Hai Lung [Sea Dragon]-class submarines); France's DCN; and Spain's IZAR (now Navantia). Although the Administration promised to help Taiwan buy submarines, not build them, Taiwan's China Shipbuilding Corporation also became interested in a part of the contract, with support from some of Taiwan's legislators. The U.S. Navy discussed options with Taiwan's Navy in July 2002 and initially planned to select the manufacturer(s) to design and build the submarines in the latter half of 2003.⁵³ On December 6, 2002, Secretary of the Navy Gordon England informed Congress in a Determination and Findings memo that bidding would be limited to four U.S. companies and the diesel subs would be of U.S.

⁵¹ Lien-Ho Pao, September 1, 2004; *Taiwan Defense Review*, December 19, 2004; author's consultations.

⁵² As for U.S. counter-espionage concerns, the FBI sent agents to Taipei to investigate alleged compromises of security on the PRC's behalf at Taiwan military's Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology, reported the *Central News Agency*, August 13, 2003.

⁵³ *Central News Agency* (Taiwan), July 30, 2002; *Taipei Times*, July 31, 2002; *Defense Daily*, September 16, 2002.

origin.⁵⁴ The U.S. Navy held a second Industry Day on December 17, 2002, with General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon interested in being the prime contractor.⁵⁵

The U.S. Navy provided the Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) on January 17, 2003.⁵⁶ The ICE put the sub program at about \$10.5 billion, but private sector estimates have been said to be lower (perhaps \$6-7 billion). Greater risks and costs were factored into the ICE because of uncertainty about funding by Taiwan and the availability of European designs.

However, by April 2003, the sale became at risk, when the United States and Taiwan reached an impasse over the program start-up costs estimated by the U.S. Navy at \$333 million, but offered at \$28.5 million by Taiwan. On May 20-23, 2003, Taiwan's Navy sent a delegation led by Vice Admiral Kao Yang to Washington to discuss the issue, but the differences reportedly remained unresolved.⁵⁷ Facing the delays in Taiwan's commitment of funds (although it first requested submarines in 1995) and a long acquisition process, the Administration then viewed the program as a long-term solution for Taiwan that would not meet the near-term blockade and submarine threats posed by the PLA Navy.⁵⁸ Defense Minister Tang Yiau-ming told visiting AIT Chairwoman Therese Shaheen on October 16, 2003, that Taiwan still placed a high priority on acquiring the submarines.⁵⁹ Meanwhile, in 2003, the Bush Administration inquired with Italy about buying eight decommissioning Sauro-class diesel-electric submarines for the estimated cost of about \$2 billion for delivery starting in 2006, but Taiwan's military opted for newly built submarines.⁶⁰

A team from the U.S. Navy's International Program Office arrived in Taipei in October 2003, for further talks on whether Taiwan will procure submarines.⁶¹ The U.S. team also met with some of Taiwan's legislators, including Lin Yu-fang of the opposition People First Party.⁶² Lin was one of the sponsors of legislation passed in May 2002, requiring Taiwan's navy to arrange for six of the eight submarines to be

⁵⁴ Gordon England, Memorandum to Congress with Determination and Findings, December 6, 2002.

⁵⁵ *Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News*, December 17, 2002.

⁵⁶ *Tung-sen Hsin-wen Pao*, Taipei, September 28, 2005.

⁵⁷ *United Daily News* (Taipei), April 21, 2003 and April 22, 2003; *Taiwan Defense Review*, May 17, 2003 and May 30, 2003.

⁵⁸ U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, *Defense and Aerospace Report*, Second Quarter 2003; *Bloomberg*, July 10, 2003; *Defense Daily*, July 11, 2003; *TDRReview*, September 19, 2003.

⁵⁹ *Central News Agency*, Taipei, October 16, 2003.

⁶⁰ Wendell Minnick, "Submarine Decisions Show Lack of Creativity," *Taipei Times*, October 16, 2004.

⁶¹ *Lien-ho Pao* [United Daily News], Taipei, October 23, 2003; *Central News Agency*, Taipei, October 26, 2003.

⁶² *Taipei Times*, October 31, 2003; *Central News Agency*, November 2, 2003.

built in Taiwan using technology transfers.⁶³ The total cost of new submarines could reach \$9-12 billion,⁶⁴ leading Taiwan's political leaders to consider a controversial Special Budget.⁶⁵ (See *Taiwan's Commitment to Self-Defense and Budgets*, below.)

Taiwan's new demand for domestic industrial participation had added another issue and greater potential costs to the program (about \$2.5 billion to the total), which U.S. Navy officials discussed with potential prime contractors at the third Industry Day meeting on December 15, 2003, in Washington.⁶⁶ However, Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz told Taiwan's visiting legislative delegation on June 21, 2004, that the Bush Administration approved Taiwan's request for assistance in purchasing submarines but is opposed to Taiwan's new proposal to build them in Taiwan.⁶⁷ With U.S. opposition to Taiwan's domestic production of submarines conveyed in official letters from the Defense Department in May and July 2004, Minister of Defense Lee Jye estimated that the cost of the submarines could be reduced.⁶⁸ Depending on the funds ultimately approved in Taiwan, the scope of a program could be restricted to fewer than eight boats.

Thus, with delays in Taiwan's decision-making after 2001, Taiwan's request for and the Bush Administration's approval of a sale of submarines have met with mixed opinions in Taipei and Washington. In early 2003, senior officials in the Bush Administration stressed ASW surveillance as one priority for Taiwan's military to consider, with the focus on static arrays and patrol aircraft to track submarines. The Administration approved submarines but did not consider them a priority.⁶⁹

In early 2006, articles appeared alleging that the U.S. Navy failed to effectively implement the diesel sub program for Taiwan, in part to protect the nuclear-powered submarine capability.⁷⁰ The Defense Department and the Navy have repeated that they support President Bush's 2001 policy decision on arms sales to Taiwan, but that Taiwan has to commit to fund the program. In February 2006, Representative Rob Simmons visited Taiwan, saying that he represented his district in Connecticut, home to General Dynamics' Electric Boat shipyard. In a speech at the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei, Simmons suggested that the subs could cost less, perhaps around \$8 billion, and proposed an interim step to break the impasse whereby Taiwan

⁶³ Author's discussion with Lin Yu-fang in Taipei in December 2003.

⁶⁴ *Lien-ho Pao* [United Daily News], August 25, 2003; *Taipei Times*, October 31, 2003.

⁶⁵ *Taiwan Defense Review*, April 30, 2004.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, February 6, 2004 and April 30, 2004.

⁶⁷ *United Daily News* (Taipei), June 23, 2004.

⁶⁸ *Lien-Ho Pao*, September 8, 2004; *Central News Agency*, October 19, 2004. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless referred to his previous letters of May 20 and July 7, 2004, in a letter to Defense Minister Lee Jye on June 27, 2006.

⁶⁹ U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, *Defense and Security Report*, 2nd Quarter 2005.

⁷⁰ Wendell Minnick, "Taiwan Claims U.S. Navy is Sabotaging SSK Plans," *Jane's Defense Weekly*, Feb. 15, 2006; "Come Clean on Subs," editorial, *Defense News*, February 13, 2006.

could procure a sub design first, costing perhaps \$225 million.⁷¹ The Navy and DSCA said that Taiwan could first submit a request for a sub design phase.⁷²

On April 3, 2006, Taiwan's military submitted a request for U.S. assessment of the feasibility of using two phases (design then perhaps construction). Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless conveyed the U.S. policy response to Taiwan's defense minister in an official letter on June 27, 2006, stating that a two-phased approach was "legally permissible and administratively feasible." However, Lawless warned that such a program likely would increase costs and risks, making foreign design firms and their governments less willing to participate. The Defense Department estimated the design phase to cost \$360 million, if Taiwan requests it.⁷³ Following Lawless' letter, Representative Rob Simmons wrote a letter to Defense Minister Lee Jye on July 17, noting that the next step was for Taiwan to request a letter of offer or acceptance for a phased approach to the design and acquisition of subs.⁷⁴ In answer to a question posed by Representative Rob Simmons at a meeting of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus on September 27, 2006, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England wrote that his department stood ready to support the U.S. effort to help Taiwan acquire submarines, if Taiwan provided the necessary funds.⁷⁵

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy has requested funds from Taiwan to keep an office to manage the sub program and reportedly warned Taiwan in August 2005 that the "pre-selection" process would stop without such funds. Through March 2006, Taiwan paid \$7.5 million to keep the office open.⁷⁶

On June 15, 2007, Taiwan's legislature passed the 2007 defense budget with \$6 million to fund a "feasibility study" (with LY participation) and did not commit to the design phase or full procurement of submarines (the two U.S.-approved options). Representative James Langevin expressed concerns in a letter to the Secretary of Defense and asked for a review of the U.S. proposal to Taiwan.⁷⁷ For the study, a LY delegation met with companies and officials in the United States in August 2007. The LY delegation was positive about its visit but did not reach a conclusion about the sub procurement. In September 2007, the stance of the KMT's presidential candidate, Ma Ying-yeou, was to support the sub purchase, but a KMT legislator who

⁷¹ News from Rob Simmons, February 17, 2006; Central News Agency, February 22, 2006; *Taipei Times*, February 23, 2006; *Defense News*, February 27, 2006; and AmCham's *Taiwan Business Topics*, March 2006.

⁷² Interviews with Navy and DSCA officials, including consultations in Taipei in April 2006.

⁷³ Letter from Richard Lawless to Taiwan's Defense Minister Lee Jye, June 27, 2006; Jim Wolf, "U.S. Clears Two-Stage Path to Taiwan Submarine Deal," *Reuters*, July 14, 2006.

⁷⁴ Letter from Rob Simmons to Defense Minister Lee Jye, July 17, 2006.

⁷⁵ Gordon England, letter to Rob Simmons, October 24, 2006.

⁷⁶ *National Journal*, April 6, 2006; and author's interviews in Taipei in April 2006.

⁷⁷ James Langevin, letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, July 20, 2007.

was in the LY delegation of August suggested a possible “new list” of arms requests depending on the outcome of the presidential election in March 2008.⁷⁸

Taiwan’s Defense Ministry requested in the 2008 defense budget about US\$169 million as the first of three annual installments for the design phase (total of US\$360 million). The LY’s defense committee kept the requested amount in the defense budget that it approved in October 2007, but the question of procurement was left for inter-party negotiations and the full LY to address. In December 2007, the LY approved the 2008 defense budget with the funds for the sub program cut to US\$61.5 million. With only one-sixth of the required amount, questions remained about Taiwan’s full funding for the design phase and how the U.S. Navy would be able to execute the first phase as approved by the Defense Department in June 2006. Nevertheless, in January 2008, Navy Secretary Donald Winter assured Representative Joe Courtney that Taiwan is required to commit to fully fund phase one, but incremental payments would be acceptable.⁷⁹ Later in January 2008, the Navy accepted Taiwan’s Letter of Request (LOR) for the design phase.⁸⁰ Then, a Navy team visited Taiwan in March 2008 to discuss details of the program.⁸¹ The next step would be notification to Congress, but the Administration has not submitted it.

P-3C ASW Aircraft. After the United States approved Taiwan’s request for 12 P-3C planes, the two sides have negotiated the proposed sale. But Taiwan questioned the estimated cost of \$300 million per new plane (in part due to Lockheed Martin’s need to reopen the production line) for a total cost of \$4.1 billion (including parts and training) and sought alternatives in 2003, such as refurbished P-3Bs or surplus P-3Cs retired from the U.S. Navy’s fleet. A longer-term option is the Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) under development by Boeing’s subsidiary, McDonnell Douglas, for the U.S. Navy. In 2004, Taiwan’s Ministry of Defense sought approval from the Legislative Yuan (LY) of a Special Budget to include funds (about \$1.6 billion) for 12 refurbished P-3C ASW planes (sold as Excess Defense Articles) with possible delivery in 2008-2011.⁸² The sale became more complicated in 2006, when L-3 Communications wanted to compete.⁸³ The LY committed to the procurement of the P-3C planes by budgeting about \$188 million in the 2007 defense budget passed on June 15, 2007 (with a total program cost of \$1.4 billion). About three months later in September, the Administration notified Congress of the proposed sale of 12 excess P-3C aircraft (and related support) worth \$1.96 billion. Upon this notification, China’s military showed its displeasure by refusing to carry out U.S.-PLA military exchanges for about a month.

⁷⁸ Su Chi’s remarks at U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, Defense Industry Conference, Annapolis, September 10-11, 2007; author’s consultations in Taipei in November 2007.

⁷⁹ Assistant Secretary of the Navy John Thackrah, letter of response, January 18, 2008.

⁸⁰ Consultations with TECRO, January and February 2008.

⁸¹ Wendell Minnick, “Hurdles Await Taiwan Efforts to Move Forward on Submarines,” *Defense News*, March 17, 2008.

⁸² *Taiwan Defense Review*, April 30, 2004.

⁸³ *China Times*, Taipei, September 4, 2006; *Jane’s Defense Weekly*, October 18, 2006.

PAC-3 Missile Defense. After U.S. approval in 1992, Taiwan in 1997 acquired three Patriot missile defense fire units with PAC-2 Guidance Enhanced Missiles. After the Bush Administration in 2001 decided to brief Taiwan on the advanced PAC-3 hit-to-kill missile, Taiwan has considered a deal on the PAC-3 system. (The U.S. Army completed developmental testing of the PAC-3 in October 2001 and conducted operational tests in 2002. The PAC-3 has been deployed with the U.S. Army, as seen in Operation Iraqi Freedom during March-April 2003. Raytheon describes its Patriot system as the world's most advanced ground-based system for defense against aircraft, theater ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles.)

In late 2002, the Pentagon reportedly was disappointed with Taiwan's delay in requesting the PAC-3 missiles.⁸⁴ At a private sector conference on Taiwan's defense in February 2003, Bush Administration officials openly stressed to Taiwan's visiting Deputy Defense Minister Chen Chao-min the imperative of acquiring advanced missile defense systems. (See *Policy Issues for Congress*, below.) In March 2003, Mary Tighe, the Director of Asian and Pacific Affairs, led a Defense Department delegation to Taiwan to urge its acquisition of missile defense systems, including the PAC-3.⁸⁵ After Chen criticized the Patriot's performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, a Pentagon spokesperson, Jeff Davis, publicly corrected Chen to Taiwan's media on March 27, 2003.⁸⁶ According to the U.S. Army, the Patriot missile defense system (with Guidance Enhanced Missiles and PAC-3 missiles) intercepted nine Iraqi missiles out of nine engagements.⁸⁷ In April 2003, Taiwan submitted to the United States a request for price and availability data in a step towards a contract, and in May 2004, Defense Minister Lee Jye requested six PAC-3 units and upgrade of three PAC-2 Plus units (around Taipei) to the PAC-3 standard for about \$4.3 billion.⁸⁸

Complicated by the failure of a referendum to pass in March 2004, Taiwan's military reportedly has looked to buy PAC-3 units, originally seeking funds out of a Special Budget submitted in May 2004.⁸⁹ Acquisition of missile defense systems has been controversial in Taiwan, with some supporting the development of domestic long-range missiles instead and some preferring short-range missile defense systems. (See discussions on Taiwan's defense budgets and missile program below.) Missile defense also became politicized, when President Chen Shui-bian pushed for a referendum on buying more missile defense systems that was held on the presidential election day on March 20, 2004. That referendum became invalid when only 45% of eligible voters cast ballots (with 50% needed). (Out of the valid ballots cast, 92%

⁸⁴ *Taiwan Defense Review*, December 6, 2002.

⁸⁵ *Central News Agency* (Taiwan), March 11, 2003.

⁸⁶ *Taipei Times*, March 29, 2003.

⁸⁷ U.S. Army, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, TX, "Operation Iraqi Freedom: Theater Air and Missile Defense," September 2003. For a skeptical view, see Randy Barrett, "Pentagon Releases Candid Glimpse of Missile Defense During Iraq War," *Space News*, November 10, 2003.

⁸⁸ *Far Eastern Economic Review*, May 15, 2003; *Jane's*, July 23, 2003; *Taiwan Defense Review*, June 15, 2004.

⁸⁹ *Central News Agency*, March 3, 2004; *China Times*, April 13, 2004; *Taiwan Defense Review*, April 30, 2004.

agreed with the proposal.) The opposition KMT and PFP parties objected to acquiring PAC-3 missiles for three years, based on their claim that the referendum “vetoed” the question.⁹⁰

Meanwhile, China’s continuing buildup of short-range ballistic missiles with “adequate precision guidance” could destroy key leadership facilities, military bases, and communication and transportation nodes with “minimal advanced warning,” warned the Pentagon’s 2004 report to Congress on PRC military power. The Secretary of Defense also reported that by November 2007, the PLA had deployed opposite Taiwan an arsenal of 990-1,070 mobile M-9 and M-11 short-range ballistic missiles, a buildup that continues to expand by over 100 a year.⁹¹

Since early 2006, Taiwan’s military and lawmakers have debated whether to upgrade Taiwan’s PAC-2 missile defense units, if PAC-3 missiles are not purchased. Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng promoted PAC-2 upgrades, but other KMT lawmakers did not support additional purchases of Patriot missile defense. KMT Legislator Shuai Hua-ming, a retired army lieutenant general, preferred more “cost-effective” weapons and “offensive” missile systems as “deterrence.”⁹² Taiwan has not upgraded its Patriot missile defense systems (to the latest configuration for radars and command and control with new training and hardware). The cheaper option to first upgrade the ground systems for Taiwan’s three PAC-2 units could cost around \$600 million. In April 2006, after first rejecting Patriot upgrades, Taiwan’s defense ministry requested U.S. price and availability data for PAC-2 upgrades and requested a supplemental budget for Patriot upgrades in 2006 (not passed).⁹³ In the end, Taiwan’s LY deleted the defense ministry’s request of about \$347 million (out of a total program cost of \$3.6 billion) to procure PAC-3 missiles in the 2007 defense budget passed on June 15, 2007, and opted to fund about \$110 million for PAC-2 upgrades (out of a total program cost of \$603 million). The Defense Department notified Congress in November 2007 of a potential Patriot ground systems upgrade program valued at \$939 million.

In late 2007, Taiwan’s LY partially resolved whether to procure PAC-3 missiles. In October 2007, the LY’s defense committee retained a requested budget of about US\$539 million in the 2008 defense budget to begin to procure PAC-3 missiles. However, the question was left for inter-party negotiations and the full LY to address in December 2007, which decided to fund four sets but freeze the funds for two more, freezing NT\$5.8 billion (US\$179 million) out of NT\$17.5 billion (US\$539 million).

⁹⁰ A KMT lawmaker, Su Chi, voiced his objections to missile defense based on the referendum’s result during the author’s visit to Taiwan in October 2004, before his election.

⁹¹ Secretary of Defense, “Annual Report on the Military Power of the People’s Republic of China,” May 29, 2004, and “Annual Report to Congress: Military Power of the People’s Republic of China, 2008,” March 3, 2008.

⁹² *Taipei Times*, April 10, 2006; and author’s interview with Shuai Hua-min in April 2006.

⁹³ *Central News Agency*, February 21, 2006; *Taipei Times*, February 22, 2006; author’s interview with Raytheon in March 2006; and author’s interviews in Taipei in April 2006.

Early Warning Radars. In 1999, some in Congress encouraged the Clinton Administration to approve a sale of early warning radars (see *106th Congress*, below), approval that was given in 2000. The Pentagon has stressed the importance of long-range early warning and tracking of ballistic and cruise missile attacks against Taiwan. Taiwan reportedly considered two options: a radar similar to AN/FPS-115 Pave Paws sold by Raytheon and the LM Digital UHF Radar proposed by Lockheed Martin.⁹⁴ Despite divided opinions among lawmakers, in November 2003, Taiwan's legislature approved the Defense Ministry's request for about \$800 million to fund one radar site (rather than an option for two).⁹⁵ Nonetheless, on March 30, 2004, the Defense Department notified Congress of the potential sale of two ultra high frequency long range early warning radars, with the potential value of \$1.8 billion, that would enhance Taiwan's ability to identify and detect ballistic missiles as well as cruise missiles, and other threats from the air, and improve the early warning capability of Taiwan's C4ISR architecture. The formal notification pointed out that U.S. personnel will not be assigned to the radar(s). By early 2005, Taiwan had not contracted for the controversial program, and Lockheed Martin withdrew its bid.⁹⁶ In June 2005, Raytheon concluded a contract worth \$752 million to provide one Early Warning Surveillance Radar System to Taiwan by September 2009.⁹⁷ By early 2007, Taiwan decided not to procure a second radar.⁹⁸

C4ISR. In addition, after approval in 1999, the United States reportedly has assisted Taiwan's C4ISR program (named Po Sheng program), involving sales of datalink systems and integration of the services into a joint command and control system.⁹⁹ In July 2001, the Bush Administration notified Congress of a proposed sale of Joint Tactical Information Distribution Systems (JTIDS)/Link 16 terminals, a basis for an expanded program. In early 2003, the Administration signaled to Taiwan that this FMS program (managed by the U.S. Navy's SPAWAR command) should be given top priority. Taiwan opted for a program costing a total of about \$1.4 billion, rather than a more comprehensive option costing about \$3.9 billion.¹⁰⁰ In September 2003, Lockheed Martin obtained a contract with the initial value of \$27.6 million.¹⁰¹ The notification to Congress submitted on September 24, 2003, indicated that the total value could reach \$775 million. Taiwan's Defense Ministry also decided not to integrate U.S. communications security (COMSEC) equipment that could facilitate

⁹⁴ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, March 26, 2003 and February 11, 2004.

⁹⁵ *Taiwan Defense Review*, November 26, 2003; *Jane's Defense Review*, December 3, 2003.

⁹⁶ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, February 9, 2005.

⁹⁷ Raytheon, June 23, 2005; Department of Defense, Air Force Contract for Raytheon, June 23, 2005; *Wall Street Journal*, June 24, 2005; *CNA*, June 25, 2005.

⁹⁸ Wendell Minnick, "Taiwan's Military Grapples with a Major C4ISR Upgrade," *C4ISR Journal*, March 2, 2007.

⁹⁹ *Chung-Kuo Shih-Pao [China Times]* (Taiwan), July 18, 2001; *Defense and Aerospace* (U.S.-Taiwan Business Council), 2001; *Taiwan Defense Review*, August 27, 2002.

¹⁰⁰ SPAWAR briefing at U.S.-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference, February 12-14, 2003; *Taiwan Defense Review*, July 17, 2003; *Tzu-Yu Shih Pao [Liberty Times]*, July 14, 2003.

¹⁰¹ *Taiwan Defense Review*, September 17, 2003; *Jane's Defense Weekly*, October 1, 2003.

crisis-management and interoperability.¹⁰² Full Operational Capability of the Po Sheng C4ISR program is expected at the end of 2009.¹⁰³

AMRAAM and SLAMRAAM. In April 2000, the Clinton Administration approved the sale of AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs) to Taiwan, with the understanding that the missiles would be kept in storage on U.S. territory and transferred later to Taiwan, if/when the People's Liberation Army (PLA) acquires a similar Russian missile, like the R-77 (AA-12) air-to-air missile, or threatens to attack Taiwan. In September 2000, the Administration notified Congress of a potential sale of 200 AMRAAMs.

On July 1, 2002, the *Washington Times* reported that, in June, two SU-30 fighters of the PLA Air Force test-fired AA-12 medium-range air-to-air missiles acquired from Russia. The report raised questions as to whether the PLA already deployed the missiles. According to *Reuters* (July 10, 2002), Raytheon planned to finalize production of the AMRAAMs for Taiwan by the fall of 2003. Some in Congress urged the Bush Administration to transfer the AMRAAMs to Taiwan after production. (See 107th Congress, below.)

By the end of 2002, the Bush Administration authorized delivery of the AMRAAMs to Taiwan and briefed its air force on ground-launched AMRAAMs.¹⁰⁴ (The U.S. Army has developed the Surface Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, or SLAMRAAM, for cruise missile defense.) By November 2003, Taiwan received its first delivery of AMRAAMs, and a pilot of Taiwan's air force test-fired an AMRAAM at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida on November 10, 2003.¹⁰⁵ However, although the Clinton Administration agreed to Taiwan's request for 200 AMRAAMs for Taiwan's 150 F-16 fighters, Taiwan's Air Force actually purchased only 120 AMRAAMs (although some U.S. observers think Taiwan needs at least 350 AMRAAMs).¹⁰⁶ By April 2004, the Defense Department reportedly encouraged Taiwan to acquire the SLAMRAAM to help counter the PLA's expected deployment of land attack cruise missiles.¹⁰⁷

F-16C/D Fighters. In 2006, Taiwan's Defense Ministry requested initial funding from the LY to acquire 66 F-16C/D fighters and to boost the defense budget in 2007 (an attempt to reach 2.85% of GDP).¹⁰⁸ On November 6, 2006, the LY's

¹⁰² U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, "Defense & Security Report," Third Quarter 2004.

¹⁰³ U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, defense conference, San Diego, CA, September 19, 2005.

¹⁰⁴ *Lien-Ho Pao [United Daily News]*, Taipei, January 5, 2003; Remarks of Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force Willard Mitchell at the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council's conference in February 2003.

¹⁰⁵ *Taiwan Defense Review*, November 15, 2003; *Central News Agency*, November 18, 2003.

¹⁰⁶ Wendell Minnick, "Taiwan's Military will Fire Blanks," *Taipei Times*, May 25, 2005.

¹⁰⁷ *Jane's Defense Weekly*, April 7, 2004.

¹⁰⁸ In spring of 2006, Taiwan's Defense Ministry considered asking to purchase new F-16C/D (not F-15) fighters (author's interviews in Taipei in April 2006). Also: Wendell (continued...)

defense and budget committees jointly passed an amended 2007 defense budget, which froze the requested budget for F-16C/D fighters for five months (ending on May 31, 2007), pending U.S. provision of price and availability data. When the LY passed the final 2007 defense budget on June 15, 2007, the deadline for releasing the funds (about \$488 million) for F-16C/Ds was extended until October 31. The total program cost is estimated at \$4.9 billion. In the LY, there was broad political support for procurement of new fighters, but there is uncertainty in Taiwan about next steps if President Bush does not approve pricing data (a potential sale). By November 2007, the Bush Administration refused twice to accept a formal Letter of Request.¹⁰⁹ Nonetheless, in October 2007, the LY's defense committee passed a 2008 defense budget that retained the requested F-16 procurement program. In December 2007, inter-party negotiations and the final decision in the LY deleted NT\$2.2 billion from NT\$22.2 billion leaving NT\$20 billion (US\$615 million). But the whole amount was frozen pending U.S. price and availability data.

In 2006, President Bush reportedly was reluctant to consider a formal request for new F-16 fighters without Taiwan's resolution of pending arms sales and without a 2007 defense budget that included funds for the fighters, given questions about Taiwan's credibility on arms purchases. Moreover, the Administration expressed disapproval in April 2007 about Taiwan's domestic development of land-attack cruise missiles for an "offensive" capability (see below). Then, within days after the LY's passage of the 2007 defense budget in mid-June 2007, Taiwan President Chen proposed a referendum on membership in the U.N. under the name "Taiwan" to be held on the day of the next presidential election (scheduled for March 22, 2008). At a U.S.-Taiwan defense industry conference on September 10-11, 2007, at which there was concern about the persisting status of "no decision" on whether to consider Taiwan's interest in F-16s, the Administration issued a policy address that stressed U.S. opposition to this referendum while linking strength and moderation as two requirements for the broader and longer-term security of Taiwan.¹¹⁰ President Bush has looked to Beijing to cooperate in nuclear nonproliferation efforts targeting North Korea and Iran. After the last sale of fighters to Taiwan, when President George H. W. Bush approved the sale of 150 F-16A/B fighters to Taiwan in September 1992, the PRC ended its participation in the "Arms Control in the Middle East" talks. Some critics argued that the sale in 1992 of F-16 fighters violated the 1982 Communique on reducing arms sales to Taiwan.¹¹¹ In addition to concerns about the political context of cross-strait stability and not undermining the tough message to Taipei, there are issues about whether Taiwan's limited defense dollars might be

¹⁰⁸ (...continued)

Minnick, "Airplane Race in Taiwan Straits," *Defense News*, May 15, 2006; Jim Wolf, "Taiwan Seeks 66 F-16 Fighters," *Reuters*, July 27, 2006; Minnick, "U.S. Debates Taiwan Request for 66 F-16s," *Defense News*, August 28, 2006; author's consultations in September 2006; and *Central News Agency*, Taipei, October 2, 2006 (quoting Minister Lee Jye).

¹⁰⁹ *Liberty Times*, Taipei, November 2, 2007; information from TECRO, February 29, 2008.

¹¹⁰ Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Christensen, "A Strong and Moderate Taiwan," U.S.-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference, Annapolis, MD, September 11, 2007.

¹¹¹ Chas. Freeman, Jr., "Preventing War in the Taiwan Strait," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 1998.

better spent on other defensive requirements, such as munitions, logistics, training, professional personnel, etc. Another question concerns the impact of only 66 fighters on the military balance in the Taiwan Strait.

Advocates say that Taiwan's legitimate request for F-16C/D fighters needed to maintain air-superiority should not be linked to other pending procurement or political considerations.¹¹² Taiwan is showing commitment to self-defense, a U.S. goal for cross-strait stability. Section 3(b) of the TRA stipulates that the President and Congress shall determine arms sales "based solely upon their judgment of the needs of Taiwan." In 1994, Congress passed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY1994-FY1995 (P.L. 103-236), with language to affirm that Sec. 3 of the TRA (on arms sales) takes primacy over policy statements (1982 Joint Communiqué). Moreover, in issuing the August 17, 1982 Joint Communiqué, President Reagan wrote in a memo that "it is essential that the quantity and quality of the arms provided Taiwan be conditioned entirely on the threat posed by the PRC. Both in quantitative and qualitative terms, Taiwan's defense capability relative to that of the PRC will be maintained."¹¹³ According to Lockheed Martin, a sale to Taiwan would provide about 8,000 U.S. jobs. Moreover, supporters argue that the United States should consider Taiwan's request when Taiwan has shown a commitment to increasing its defense budget and defense capabilities (long-sought U.S. goals), and the less provocative KMT Party's Ma Ying-jeou became Taiwan's president in May 2008. Also, withholding support for this request undermines another U.S. objective of discouraging Taiwan's deployment of long-range cruise missiles. Finally, supporters point out that in April 2001, President Bush dropped the 20-year-old annual arms talks process used to discuss arms sales to Taiwan in favor of normal, routine considerations of Taiwan's requests on an as-needed basis.

In March 2008, in answer to Senators Tim Johnson and James Inhofe of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Eric Edelman promised that the department will consider carefully any request from Taiwan for defense articles and services, "including replacement airframes."¹¹⁴ See discussion on major congressional actions in the section on the 110th Congress below.

Nevertheless, some are concerned that the Administration is stressing China's interests over U.S. policy in consideration of arms sales based solely upon Taiwan's legitimate defense needs. Even after Taiwan approved a defense budget in December 2007 and the less provocative Ma Ying-jeou succeeded Chen Shui-bian as Taiwan's president in May 2008, President Bush reportedly continues to put off consideration of an F-16 sale to avoid upsetting China ahead of the Olympic Games in August, as urged by the U.S. ambassador in Beijing.¹¹⁵

¹¹² U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, "Defense & Security Report," 3rd Quarter 2006; 2nd Quarter 2007; John Tkacik, "Approve Taiwan Arms Buy," *Defense News*, July 30, 2007.

¹¹³ James Lilley, *China Hands* (Public Affairs, 2004); see CRS Report RL30341.

¹¹⁴ Eric Edelman, letter to Senators Tim Johnson and James Inhofe, March 28, 2008.

¹¹⁵ *Washington Times*, May 9 and 30, 2008; Rupert Hammond-Chambers, President of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, "Taiwan's Security on Hold," op-ed, *The Hill*, June 6, 2008.

The F-16C/D (single-seat/two-seat versions) multi-role (air-to-air and air-to-surface combat) fighters would not be a new type of weapon sold to Taiwan, as they are the improved versions of F-16s sold in 1992. (The first F-16A fighters entered service in the U.S. Air Force in 1979. In 1980, the Air Force began a program to improve the F-16's capabilities for precision strike, night attack, and beyond-visual-range interception, with advanced controls and fire control radars, etc. The Air Force received the first F-16C fighters in 1984.)¹¹⁶ The Secretary of Defense's annual report to Congress on PRC military power warned that the modernizing PLA has been shifting the military balance in its favor. The Pentagon reported that the PLA Air Force has 490 aircraft (330 fighters and 160 bombers) within range of Taiwan (without need to refuel), while Taiwan has 390 fighters.¹¹⁷ Since 1990, the PLA Air Force has bought Russian Su-27 and Su-30 fighters, and in late 2006, received the first J-10 fighters (developed in China based on the Israeli Lavi program of the 1980s). The PLA Air Force also acquired Russian S-300PMU2 surface-to-air missiles with a range that extends over Taiwan's airspace. Taiwan's advanced fighters include 146 F-16A/Bs, 56 Mirages, and 128 IDFs (Indigenous Defense Fighters). Taiwan has a requirement to replace aging F-5 fighters but also needs to replace the IDFs.

Other Possible Future Sales. In addition to the major weapon systems discussed above, possible future arms sales to Taiwan's military include:¹¹⁸

- signals intelligence (SIGINT) aircraft (perhaps sold by Gulfstream, Raytheon, or Cessna) for which Taiwan reportedly requested price and availability data in 2002;
- C-27J Spartan medium transport aircraft (sold by Lockheed Martin);
- F-35 Joint Strike Fighters (JSF), particularly the short take-off/vertical landing (STOVL) version, under development by Lockheed Martin and foreign partners (including Singapore);
- Stryker armored wheeled vehicles (sold by General Dynamics);
- upgraded engines for F-16s (Pratt & Whitney or General Electric);
- CH-53X minesweeping helicopters (developed by Sikorsky)
- search-and-rescue helicopters (Sikorsky or Bell)
- trainer aircraft
- KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling aircraft;
- Phalanx Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) (sold by Raytheon).

¹¹⁶ *Jane's All the World's Aircraft, 1986-1987*; U.S. Air Force fact sheet, June 2006.

¹¹⁷ Defense Department, "Military Power of the People's Republic of China, 2008," March 3, 2008.

¹¹⁸ *Flight International*, November 25-December 1, 2003; *Jane's Defense Review*, January 14, 2004; U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, *Defense and Aerospace Report*, First Quarter 2004; *Taiwan Defense Review*, May 7, 2004; *Central News Agency*, June 21, 2004; *Flight International*, July 13-19, 2004; *Flight International*, September 7-13, 2004; *Flight International*, December 7-13, 2004; *Taiwan Defense Review*, December 30, 2004; *AFP*, Hong Kong, March 8, 2005; *Jane's Defense Weekly*, May 4, 2005; *Defense News*, May 7, 2007; *Taipei Times*, June 24, 2007; *Lien-ho Pao*, July 9, 2007; and author's consultations.

Policy Issues for Congress

Since the early 1990s, and accelerated after the Taiwan Strait crisis of 1995-1996, the PLA has modernized with a missile buildup and foreign arms acquisitions, primarily from Russia.¹¹⁹ As a result of the PLA's provocative exercises and missile test-firings in 1995 and 1996 that were directed against Taiwan, Congress has increasingly asserted its role vis-a-vis the Administration in determining security assistance for Taiwan, as stipulated by Section 3(b) of the TRA, as well as in exercising its oversight of Section 2(b)(6) of the TRA on the U.S. capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion against Taiwan. Congress increasingly asserted its role in determining arms sales to Taiwan *before* sales were decided.

Moreover, Section 3(c) of the TRA requires the President to inform Congress "promptly" of any threat to "the security or the social or economic system" of the people on Taiwan and any danger to U.S. interests, so that the President together with the Congress shall determine the appropriate U.S. response. (In March 1996, during the Taiwan Strait Crisis when President Clinton deployed two aircraft carrier battle groups near Taiwan, the State Department nonetheless testified that the situation did not constitute a "threat to the security or the social or economic system" of Taiwan and therefore did not invoke Section 3(c) for a congressional role.¹²⁰) Policy issues center on how effectively the Administration is helping Taiwan's self-defense, the role of Congress in determining security assistance to Taiwan, and whether aspects of U.S. security assistance are stabilizing or destabilizing and should be adjusted based on changing conditions. Overall, the question for policy is whether to disengage from or increase engagement with Taiwan in a number of specific areas.

Extent of U.S. Commitment on Defense. The persistent question for U.S. decision-makers in the military, Administration, and Congress is whether the United States would go to war with the PRC over Taiwan and the purpose of any conflict. The TRA did not replace the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1954 that ended in 1979. Nonetheless, some have called for a clear commitment (to shore up deterrence and help Taiwan's self-defense), advanced arms sales, interoperability with Taiwan's military, combined operational training and planning, high-level meetings, and visits by U.S. flag and general officers to Taiwan. Others have argued that the United States should avoid a war with China and needs a cooperative China in a number of global problems, that trends in the Taiwan Strait are destabilizing, and that the United States should limit security assistance as leverage to prevent provocative moves by Taiwan's leaders. The question of U.S. assistance for Taiwan's defense involves two aspects: intention (willingness) and capability to assist Taiwan's self-defense.

In March 1996, President Clinton deployed two aircraft carrier battle groups near Taiwan in response to the PLA's provocative missile test-firings and exercises. Another question arose in April 2001 when President Bush initially said that he would do "whatever it took to help Taiwan defend herself" if China attacked.

¹¹⁹ See the Defense Department's annual reports to Congress on PRC Military Power.

¹²⁰ Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord, before the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on "Crisis in the Taiwan Strait: Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy," March 14, 1996, 104th Congress.

Supporters have viewed such clarity as needed to prevent miscalculations in Beijing and deter attacks against Taiwan. However, critics have argued that Bush encouraged provocations from Taipei, even if the message was not meant for Taiwan, and weakened willingness in Taiwan to strengthen its own defense. Later, when Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian advocated referendums and a new constitution, President Bush said that "the comments and actions made by the leader of Taiwan indicate that he may be willing to make decisions unilaterally to change the status quo, which we oppose," in appearing with PRC Premier Wen Jiabao in the Oval Office on December 9, 2003.

At a hearing in April 2004, in answer to Representative Gary Ackerman's questions about whether President Bush's phrase on "whatever it took to help Taiwan defend herself" means that the United States would go to war with China if Taiwan makes unilateral moves toward independence, Assistant Secretary James Kelly stated that what the president said has a meaning "at the time he says it to those listeners," we intend to fulfill the defense responsibilities under the TRA "to the extent necessary," "we oppose actions that would unilaterally alter Taiwan's status," leaders in Taiwan "misunderstood" if they believe that President Bush supports whatever they do, and "decisions of war and peace are made by the president with consultation with Congress." Assistant Secretary of Defense Peter Rodman replied that President Bush's phrase was a reaffirmation of the TRA, which leaves a certain "ambiguity." Rodman also warned Beijing that its use of force would "inevitably" involve the United States.¹²¹

In December 2004, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage also clarified the U.S. defense commitment by saying, "we have the requirement with the Taiwan Relations Act to keep sufficient force in the Pacific to be able to deter attack. We are not required to defend. And these are questions that actually reside with the U.S. Congress, who has to declare an act of war."¹²²

On June 8, 2005, President Bush qualified U.S. assistance for Taiwan's self-defense if it is invaded by saying that "If China were to invade unilaterally, we would rise up in the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act. If Taiwan were to declare independence unilaterally, it would be a unilateral decision, that would then change the U.S. equation, the U.S. look at ... the decision-making process."¹²³

In September 2005, the Defense Department further clarified the mutual obligations under the TRA and limits to U.S. ability to assist Taiwan's defense. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless issued a speech, stressing the TRA's focus on Taiwan's self-defense. He declared that,

inherent in the intent and logic of the TRA is the expectation that Taiwan will be able to mount a viable self-defense. For too long, the Taiwan Relations Act has been referenced as purely a U.S. obligation.... Under the TRA, the U.S. is

¹²¹ House International Relations Committee, hearing on "The Taiwan Relations Act: The Next 25 Years," April 21, 2004.

¹²² Richard Armitage, Interview with PBS, December 10, 2004.

¹²³ President George W. Bush, "Your World with Neil Cavuto," *Fox News*, June 8, 2005.

obligated to “enable” Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense, but the reality is, it is Taiwan that is obligated to have a sufficient self-defense. There is an explicit expectation in the TRA that Taiwan is ready, willing, and able to maintain its self-defense. Taiwan must fulfill its unwritten, but clearly evident obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act by appropriately providing for its own defense while not simply relying on the U.S.’s capacity to address a threat in the Strait. The TRA requires both parties to do their part to deter aggression or coercion vis-a-vis Taiwan.¹²⁴

A co-chair of the House Taiwan Caucus, Representative Steve Chabot, stated on September 27, 2005, at the Heritage Foundation that Taiwan is only one ally and that it is principally Taiwan’s responsibility to defend itself. He said that it has been “frustrating” and “disappointing” to many Members of Congress that Taiwan delayed passage of the Special Budget on arms procurement. He warned that if Taiwan does not pass the Special Budget, many Members of Congress will “re-evaluate the extent of support for Taiwan.”

Taiwan’s President Chen Shui-bian announced on February 27, 2006, that he would “terminate” the National Unification Council, again raising questions about new tensions. Senator John Warner, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, told Admiral William Fallon, PACOM Commander, at a hearing on March 7, 2006, that “if conflict were precipitated by just inappropriate and wrongful politics generated by the Taiwanese elected officials, I’m not entirely sure that this nation would come full force to their rescue if they created that problem.” On April 24, 2007, at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee with the new PACOM commander, Admiral Timothy Keating, Senator Warner said Taiwan should not play the “TRA card” when the U.S. military is engaged heavily in the world.

Jiang Zemin’s Offer on Missiles. Moreover, there has been much interest among U.S. academic circles and think tanks for Washington to pursue talks with Beijing on its military buildup and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan (instead of simply enhancing security assistance to Taiwan).¹²⁵ A catalyst for this debate among policymakers arose out of the U.S.-PRC summit in Crawford, TX, on October 25, 2002. As confirmed to Taiwan’s legislature by its envoy to Washington, C.J. Chen, and reported in Taiwan’s media, PRC ruler Jiang Zemin offered in vague terms a freeze or reduction in China’s deployment of missiles targeted at Taiwan, in return

¹²⁴ The speech was read by a DSCA official, Ed Ross, on September 19, 2005, in San Diego, CA, at the Defense Industry Conference of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, while Lawless was delayed in Beijing at the Six-Party Talks on North Korea’s nuclear weapons.

¹²⁵ See David Lampton and Richard Daniel Ewing, “U.S.-China Relations in a Post-September 11th World,” Nixon Center, August 2002; David Shambaugh’s arguments at conference by Carnegie Endowment, Stanford University, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, on “Taiwan and U.S. Policy: Toward Stability or Crisis?,” October 9, 2002; Michael Swaine, “Reverse Course? The Fragile Turnaround in U.S.-China Relations,” Carnegie Endowment Policy Brief, February 2003; and David Lampton, “The Stealth Normalization of U.S.-China Relations,” *National Interest*, fall 2003.

for restraint in U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.¹²⁶ President Bush reportedly did not respond directly to Jiang's linkage. Editorials in Taiwan were divided on whether to pursue Jiang's offer.

Some argued that confidence building measures, such as a freeze or reduction in PLA missile and other military deployments, would improve the chances for cross-strait political dialogue and lead to greater stability. They said that the United States could explore how the PRC might reduce the threat against Taiwan, such as dismantling missile brigades in a verifiable manner, since sales of U.S. systems are based on Taiwan's defense needs. They argued that Jiang's offer represented the first time that the PRC offered meaningfully to discuss its forces opposite Taiwan. Others said that a freeze or redeployment of missiles would not eliminate the PRC's continuing and broader military threat against Taiwan (including mobile missiles that can be re-deployed) and that the PRC should hold direct talks with leaders in Taipei instead. They argued that Jiang did not seek to reduce the PLA's coercive threat but to undermine the relationship between Washington and Taipei, including sales and deliveries of weapons systems which take years to complete. They pointed out that the PLA's missile buildup has continued.

One issue for congressional oversight has concerned whether and how the Administration might deal with Beijing on the question of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. Policy considerations include the TRA, the 1982 Joint Communiqué (which discussed reductions in U.S. arms sales to Taiwan premised on the PRC's peaceful unification policy), and the 1982 "Six Assurances" to Taiwan (including one of not holding prior consultations with the PRC on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan). At a hearing in March 2001, Secretary of State Colin Powell assured Senator Helms that the "Six Assurances" would remain U.S. policy and that the Administration would not favor consulting the PRC on arms sales to Taiwan.¹²⁷ The Bush Administration reportedly did not counter Jiang's verbal offer, noting the accelerated missile buildup, continued military threats against Taiwan, the need for the PRC to talk directly to Taiwan, the TRA, and the "Six Assurances" to Taiwan. Nonetheless, in April 2004, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly testified that if the PRC meets its stated obligations to pursue a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue and matches its rhetoric with a military posture that bolsters and supports peaceful approaches to Taiwan, "it follows logically that Taiwan's defense requirements will change."¹²⁸ In May 2005, an official PRC newspaper reported that the PLA continues to debate the question of whether to "withdraw" missiles opposite Taiwan.¹²⁹

Taiwan's Commitment to Self-Defense and Budgets. Congress has oversight of the Administration's dialogue with Taiwan about its self-defense and military budgets. Congress also has discussed with Taiwan these responsibilities.

¹²⁶ *Chung-Kuo Shih-Pao [China Times]*, Taipei, November 22, 2002; *Taipei Times*, November 23, 2002.

¹²⁷ Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Hearing on U.S. Foreign Policy, March 8, 2001.

¹²⁸ House International Relations Committee, Hearing on "The Taiwan Relations Act: The Next 25 Years," April 21, 2004.

¹²⁹ *Qingnian Cankao [Youth Reference News]*, Beijing, May 26, 2005.

Since 2002, some have expressed increasing concerns about Taiwan's commitment to its self-defense and lack of national consensus on national security. The Pentagon's report on PRC Military Power submitted to Congress in July 2002 said that reforms in Taiwan's military were needed to achieve a joint service capability to meet the growing challenge from the PLA's modernizing air, naval, and missile forces, but warned that "the defense budget's steady decline as a percentage of total government spending will challenge Taiwan's force modernization."¹³⁰ The Pentagon's report issued in July 2003 further stressed that the relative decline in Taiwan's defense budget "increasingly" will challenge its force modernization.¹³¹ Starting in 2003, observers have criticized Taiwan's civilian and military leaders for not placing more urgent priority on upgrading their self-defense capability.¹³²

Taiwan's regular defense budget for **2004** was about US\$7.8 billion, which accounted for 2.4% of GDP and 16.7% of the total government budget, as compared with 3.8% of GDP and 24.3% of total spending in 1994. (See the table below.) These relative declines took place even as the Pentagon has warned of an increased threat posed by the PLA to Taiwan, U.S. support for Taiwan has increased after the 1995-1996 crisis, and the PLA has obtained higher budgets.

Meanwhile, the PRC has significantly increased military budgets, budgets that the Defense Department has assessed as markedly understating actual defense-related expenditures (by excluding funds for weapons research, foreign arms purchases, etc.). The Secretary of Defense's latest report on PRC military power estimated that China's total defense spending for 2007 could be \$97-139 billion, about two to three times the announced military budget.¹³³ The PRC's defense budget can be used as one indicator of the priority placed on the PLA's modernization. In March 2008, the PRC announced its military budget for 2008 that totaled \$58.8 billion, claiming a 17.6% increase over last year's military budget. Actually, the announced 2008 budget is an increase of 19.1% over last year's announced budget (vs. actual budget). Using the PRC's own announced military budgets, the 2008 budget is a doubling of the 2004 budget. This trend of double-digit percentage increases has continued for years. Nominally, China has raised its announced military budget by double-digit percentage increases every year since 1989. After the Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1995-1996, China's announced military budget has increased in real terms

¹³⁰ Department of Defense, "Annual Report on the Military Power of the People's Republic of China," July 12, 2002.

¹³¹ Department of Defense, "Report on PRC Military Power," July 30, 2003.

¹³² Peter Brookes, "The Challenges and Imperatives in Taiwan's Defense," Heritage Lectures, January 9, 2003; John Tkacik, "Taiwan Must Get Serious About Defense," *Defense News*, January 27, 2003; John Tkacik, "Taiwan Must Grasp on True Defense Needs," *Defense News*, December 1, 2003; Wendell Minnick, "Taiwan Procurement in Shambles," *Defense News*, March 19, 2007; Randall Schriver, "Defense: Time to Take Ownership," *Taipei Times*, April 4, 2007; Ted Galen Carpenter, "Taiwan's Free Ride on U.S. Defense," *Wall Street Journal*, April 23, 2007.

¹³³ Secretary of Defense, "Military Power of the People's Republic of China, 2008," March 3, 2008. The Defense Department has estimated China's total military spending at 3.5% to 5% of GDP. Also see Secretary of Defense, *Proliferation: Threat and Response*, 2001.

(accounting for inflation) every year, including real double-digit percentage increases every year since 1998. China's military budget is the highest in Asia.

Some legislators in Taiwan have argued that Taiwan's defense spending has been sufficiently significant, that the legislature in the newly consolidated democracy has the right to scrutinize the defense budget, that economic challenges constrain defense spending, and that Taiwan does not need U.S. weapons in an accommodation with the PRC. The U.S. approvals of significant arms sales in 2001 came in the one year of negative real change in Taiwan's GDP (-2.2%), according to Global Insight. Also, Taiwan's officials and legislators pointed out that Taiwan had funded defense out of separate Special Budgets in addition to the regular (annual) defense budgets. Taiwan's Special Budgets for defense in 1994-2003 totaled US\$22.6 billion and funded procurement of fighter aircraft and military housing construction.¹³⁴ Since 2003, anti-American complaints in Taiwan have targeted perceived U.S. "pressure," "extortion," "sucker's arms deals," and "arms dealers' profits."¹³⁵

In June 2003, Deputy Defense Minister Lin Chong-pin and a Defense Committee delegation led by Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng visited Washington to reassure the Bush Administration and Congress that the government in Taipei remained committed to self-defense.¹³⁶ A former official in the Pentagon involved in arms sales decisions wrote in early 2006, that the impasse over Taiwan's defense spending does not symbolize a lack of commitment to self-defense. Mark Stokes contended that the Bush Administration's policy on arms sales to Taiwan was right, but it came at the wrong time.¹³⁷

For **2005**, Taiwan's Ministry of Defense requested a defense budget of NT\$260.7 billion, a *reduction* of NT\$3.1 billion from 2004, and the final 2005 defense budget was NT\$258.5 billion (about US\$8.0 billion).¹³⁸

In August 2005, the Defense Ministry requested a budget for **2006** of NT\$265.7 billion, an increase of NT\$7.2 billion from 2005. However, that budget included an initial request to buy PAC-3 missile defense units, after the Ministry lowered the Special Budget by removing funds for PAC-3. Minister of Defense Lee Jye acknowledged a major "crowding out" impact on the 2006 budget resulting from adding the PAC-3 request to the annual budget. He lamented that he had to cut out 53 new programs that would have invested in combat strength.¹³⁹ On January 12, 2006, the legislature voted to cut NT\$11.2 billion (US\$348 million) from the annual

¹³⁴ Taiwan's official defense budgets and special budgets were provided by Taiwan's representative office in Washington, DC.

¹³⁵ *United Daily News*, April 21, 2003; *China Times*, May 8, 2003 and August 18, 2003.

¹³⁶ Meeting at CRS with Lin Chong-pin and congressional staff, June 5, 2003; Luncheon at the Heritage Foundation with Taiwan's legislative delegation led by Wang Jin-pyng, June 24, 2003; TECRO, *Taipei Update*, July 22, 2003.

¹³⁷ Mark Stokes, "Taiwan's Security: Beyond the Special Budget," AEI, March 27, 2006.

¹³⁸ Consultations in Taipei and Washington; and FBIS report, October 22, 2004.

¹³⁹ *Central News Agency*, Taipei, August 30, 2005.

defense budget for 2006 (funds that would have been supplementary funds to support procurement of PAC-3 missile defense, P-3C aircraft, and submarines) and did not direct those funds to be used for munitions, training, or other defense needs. Taiwan's final 2006 defense budget was NT\$252.5 billion (about US\$7.8 billion), a *reduction* of NT\$6 billion from the previous year. Meanwhile, the Minister of Defense requested a Supplemental Budget for the 2006 defense budget partly to procure U.S. submarines, P-3C ASW aircraft, and PAC-2 missile defense upgrades, given the lack of legislative approval for the requested Special Budget. In March 2006, the Defense Ministry requested a 2006 Supplemental Budget totaling NT\$13.7 billion (US\$420 million) for 74 defense programs, including NT\$5.6 billion (US\$172 million) for the three weapon systems, but the Cabinet did not agree with it.

With general U.S. support, Taiwan's leaders stated a goal of reversing the declining spending trends and increasing the defense budget to 3% of GDP by 2008. In May 2005, Taiwan's Defense Minister Lee Jye requested that the defense budget increase from 2.4% of GDP to 3.0% of GDP in the next five years.¹⁴⁰ President Chen Shui-bian announced on September 12, 2005, the goal of increasing the annual defense budget to 3% of GDP by 2008, and this goal was officially stated in Taiwan's first National Security Report issued by President Chen in May 2006. In reaction to the report, the State Department issued a statement on May 19, 2006, to stress that the United States encourages "Taiwan to boost its defense spending, concentrating in particular on immediate challenges of hardening and sustainability." Taiwan finally reversed the negative trend in defense spending with an increase in 2007.

Table 1. Taiwan's Defense Budgets

Fiscal year	Military budget (NT\$ bil.)	Military budget (US\$ bil.)	% of GDP	% of total government spending
1994	258.5	9.8	3.8	24.3
1995	252.3	9.5	3.5	24.5
1996	258.3	9.5	3.4	22.8
1997	268.8	9.4	3.3	22.5
1998	274.8	8.2	3.2	22.4
1999	284.5	8.8	3.2	21.6
2000	402.9	12.9	2.9	17.4
2001	269.8	8.0	2.9	16.5
2002	260.4	7.5	2.7	16.4
2003	257.2	7.6	2.6	15.5
2004	261.9	7.8	2.4	16.7

¹⁴⁰ *Taipei Times*, May 24, 2005.

Fiscal year	Military budget (NT\$ bil.)	Military budget (US\$ bil.)	% of GDP	% of total government spending
2005	258.5	8.0	2.3	16.1
2006	252.5	7.8	2.1	16.1
2007	304.9	9.2	2.4	18.7
2008	341.1	10.5	2.5	20.2

Notes: This table was compiled using data on the regular, annual defense budgets provided by the ROC's Ministry of National Defense, LY and news reports, as well as data on GDP and exchange rates reported by Global Insight. The currency is the New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$). The FY2000 budget covered the 18-month period from July 1999 to December 2000.

Special Budget Proposed in 2004. In 2002, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said that it needed the legislature to approve NT\$700 billion (about US\$21 billion) over the next 10 years for arms procurement.¹⁴¹ Taiwan's Defense Ministry has considered a Special Budget of \$15 billion-\$20 billion to procure the PAC-3 missile defense system, submarines, and P-3 ASW aircraft over 10-15 years. As discussed above, in 2003, Taiwan's military received the U.S. cost estimate for new submarines as well as price and availability data for PAC-3 missile defense systems and refurbished P-3C planes. In May 2003, Minister of Defense Tang Yiau-ming sent a letter to U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz that Taiwan planned to submit later a Special Budget to the legislature to procure the three weapon systems. However, Tang allegedly had doubts about the Special Budget's passage, while looking to the regular defense budget to fund items of priority to the Army.¹⁴²

As Taiwan considered a Special Budget, the Pentagon encouraged a decision. In April 2004, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Peter Rodman testified to Congress that "we have made clear to our friends on Taiwan that we expect them to reverse this budget decline. Though our commitments to Taiwan are enduring, the American people and both the Executive Branch and Congress expect the people of Taiwan to make their own appropriate commitment to their freedom and security." Rodman also stressed that "we expect Taiwan to go forward with its plan to pass a Special Budget *this summer* to fund essential missile defense and anti-submarine warfare systems and programs" [emphasis added].¹⁴³ On May 29, 2004, the Pentagon issued the 2004 report to Congress on PRC Military Power, stressing that "the principal indicator of Taiwan's commitment to addressing its shortfalls will be the fate of its annual defense budget" and that "the island's apparent lack of political consensus over addressing [its military challenges] with substantially increased defense spending is undoubtedly seen as an encouraging trend in Beijing."

¹⁴¹ *Chung-Kuo Shih-Pao [China Times]* (Taipei), May 17, 2002; *Taiwan Defense Review*, August 30, 2002.

¹⁴² U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, "Defense and Security Report," 3rd Quarter 2005.

¹⁴³ Statement before the House International Relations Committee, hearing on "The Taiwan Relations Act: the Next 25 Years," April 21, 2004.

On May 21, 2004, Taiwan's Defense Minister Lee Jye — a retired Naval Admiral personally committed to procuring new submarines — submitted to the Executive Yuan (Cabinet) a request for a Special Budget for defense totaling about US\$20 billion.¹⁴⁴ On June 2, the Executive Yuan, controlled by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), then passed a Special Budget of NT\$610.8 billion (about US\$18.2 billion), with about \$4.3 billion for PAC-3 missile defense systems, \$12.3 billion for submarines, and \$1.6 billion for P-3 aircraft.¹⁴⁵ Taiwan's legislators have had the options of procuring all three systems, procuring one or two items, alternatives, or none. However, Taiwan's priorities remained unclear.

Taiwan's Legislative Delegation to the United States. The Special Budget was not passed in 2004, although the United States urged passage and welcomed the LY's president, Wang Jin-pyng of the KMT, who led a multi-party delegation to the United States on June 17-27, 2004, to gain direct information on the weapons systems. The LY delegation visited Pearl Harbor Naval Base, HI; Washington, DC; and Fort Bliss, TX. Under Wang's leadership, legislators from different political parties reached a preliminary consensus in support of the Special Budget during their visit to Washington, where they met with Members of Congress and defense officials. They said they would seek a new cost estimate for the submarines, with the options of a construction or maintenance role for Taiwan's shipbuilding industry and delivery in 10 (not 15) years (after Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz personally expressed to the delegation U.S. opposition to Taiwan's more expensive proposal to build submarines domestically); and that they would consider splitting up the Special Budget to approve funds for the P-3C aircraft and PAC-3 missile defense systems, ahead of considering the subs.¹⁴⁶

However, politicians made the Special Budget into a controversial political issue in gearing up for legislative elections on December 11, 2004. Opposition parties of the "blue coalition," the Kuomintang (KMT) and People First Party (PFP), called for drastic cuts in the Special Budget and retained their majority in the LY.

Rising U.S. Frustrations. In a speech in October 2004, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Richard Lawless urged Taiwan's legislature to "vote in favor of Taiwan's national security."¹⁴⁷ In a strong tone, he warned that the Special Budget was a "litmus test" of Taiwan's commitment to its self-defense and that "inability" to pass the Special Budget would have "serious long-term consequences" (for foreign support, further intimidation from Beijing, and perceptions of Taiwan as a "liability"). Lawless also called for Taiwan to expand its efforts from "national defense" to "national security," including countering coercion and managing crises

¹⁴⁴ *Central News Agency*, Taipei, May 26, 2004; *China Times*, Taipei, May 27, 2004.

¹⁴⁵ *Central News Agency*, Taipei, June 2, 2004.

¹⁴⁶ Discussion with CRS and Congress on June 22, 2004; *United Daily News*, June 23, 2004.

¹⁴⁷ Richard Lawless, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs, Keynote Address, U.S.-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference, U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, October 4, 2004, Scottsdale, AZ. One of the ROC's Deputy Ministers of Defense, General Huoh Shou-Yeh, attended the conference.

by protecting critical infrastructure (national command facilities, telecommunications, energy, water, media, computer networks, etc.).

Raising frustrations in the Bush Administration and Congress that Taiwan has not placed a priority on self-defense, it became increasingly doubtful in 2005 that the LY would vote on the Special Budget and fund it at the full level, even if it is considered. Meanwhile, the United States has increased concerns about and shifted focus to the regular defense budget and other questions about Taiwan's self-defense.

Cutting the Special Budget in 2005. In January 2005, President Chen Shui-bian told visiting Representative Tom Lantos that PFP Chairman James Soong changed his position on the Special Budget after visiting Washington where he met with Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randy Schriver.¹⁴⁸ The following month, Lawless warned that Taiwan's failure to approve the Special Budget signaled that it lacked seriousness about its own security, raising questions about whether U.S. support has been necessary or not.¹⁴⁹ In February 2005, the Defense Ministry announced that the Special Budget's figure dropped to NT\$590 billion (after appreciation of the NT dollar relative to the U.S. dollar) and that the request would be reduced to NT\$480 billion (US\$15.5 billion) (after removing certain costs, including an estimated US\$2.3 billion associated with producing submarines domestically in Taiwan).¹⁵⁰ The reduced figure also factored in moving some infrastructure costs to the annual defense budget, but that budget has faced cuts. The Cabinet approved the new request on March 16 and submitted it to the LY.¹⁵¹ Two days earlier, the PRC's National People's Congress adopted its "Anti-Secession Law," warning that the government in Beijing "may" use force against Taiwan.

However, Chen and Soong issued a "Ten-Point Consensus" on February 24, 2005, that did not mention the Special Budget. Indeed, the PFP raised another objection, saying that the major items should be funded out of the annual defense budget instead of a Special Budget.¹⁵² The Defense Ministry began to consider asking for funds for the PAC-3 missile defense systems out of the annual defense budget, with submarines as the top priority rather than missile defense stressed by the Bush Administration.¹⁵³ In April-May 2005, the chairmen of the opposition parties, KMT's Lien Chan and PFP's James Soong, made historic visits of reconciliation to mainland China, meeting with Hu Jintao, Communist Party General-Secretary, Central Military Commission Chairman, and PRC President. These visits to the PRC further dampened prospects that the Special Budget would be passed.

¹⁴⁸ *Agence France Presse*, Hong Kong, January 17, 2005. The author also confirmed Soong's meeting with Lawless with the KMT/PFP's representative in D.C.

¹⁴⁹ *Taipei Times*, February 26, 2005; Lawless gave a speech that was not publicly released, apparently at a meeting in Washington of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council.

¹⁵⁰ *Taipei Times*, February 16, 2005; February 23, 2005.

¹⁵¹ *Ettoday*, Taipei, March 16, 2005 (via FBIS).

¹⁵² *Lien-ho Pao [United Daily News]*, Taipei, March 21, 2005.

¹⁵³ *Tzu-yu Shih-pao [Liberty Times]*, Taipei, March 21, 2005; *China Post*, March 22, 2005.

Congressional Appeals. On May 24, 2005, the LY's Procedure Committee failed to place the Special Budget on the legislative calendar, blocking consideration before the session's end on May 31. On May 27, Representative Rob Simmons and 32 other House Members wrote to KMT chairman Lien Chan, urging him to help expedite passage of the Special Budget in May. They warned that "failure to pass the special budget has raised concerns in the United States about Taiwan's ability to defend itself against potential aggression."¹⁵⁴ However, Lien responded in a three-page letter by making partisan attacks on the DPP and President Chen Shui-bian, and criticisms of the Special Budget although the KMT used special budgets in the 1990s.¹⁵⁵ Moreover, KMT and PFP members of the LY's Defense Committee refused to attend a luncheon on June 9 with the top U.S. representative, AIT's Director Doug Paal, while his strained relationship with the DPP apparently required Deputy Director Dave Keegan to host the DPP lawmakers who showed up to discuss the arms sales.¹⁵⁶ There was no special session in the summer as the ruling DPP requested. On July 16, 2005, the KMT overwhelmingly elected Ma Ying-jeou (Taipei's Mayor) instead of Wang Jin-pyng (LY's President) to replace Lien Chan as KMT Chairman, prompting some to ask whether Ma would show leadership in considering the Special Budget. However, he focused on the city and county elections on December 3, 2005, when the KMT won 14 out of 23 seats.

On August 1, 2005, three co-chairs of the House Taiwan Caucus wrote to Ma Ying-jeou as the new KMT chairman. They urged him to "lead efforts in Taipei to ensure that the Legislative Yuan quickly passes a special arms procurement package or increases its annual defense spending." They also invited Ma to visit Washington.¹⁵⁷ However, Ma responded as the Mayor of Taipei on August 18 (one day before becoming KMT Chairman), by blaming the DPP administration for "procrastinating for three years," "negligence," and "lack of leadership," with no mention of Wang Jin-pyng's LY delegation in June 2004. Ma promised to focus his attention on the issue and to "work closely with the KMT caucus" in the LY after taking over the KMT chairmanship. He also declined to visit in September, writing that the LY will "address tough bills like the arms procurement bill."¹⁵⁸ However, after PFP Chairman James Soong met with Ma on September 7, he announced that the KMT and PFP party caucuses will continue to "consult each other" on whether to advance the Special Budget for consideration in the LY.¹⁵⁹ Meanwhile, Ma set up a KMT task force to study the arms issue, and there have been questions about whether the KMT would support certain arms purchases and incur rising differences with its weakening coalition partner, the PFP, after the December 2005 elections.

¹⁵⁴ Rep. Rob Simmons, et al., letter to Chairman Lien Chan, Kuomintang, May 27, 2005.

¹⁵⁵ Lien Chan, Chairman of the KMT, letter to Rep. Simmons, et al., June 8, 2005.

¹⁵⁶ *Taipei Times*, June 10, 2005.

¹⁵⁷ Letter from Representatives Robert Wexler, Steve Chabot, and Sherrod Brown (without Dana Rohrabacher) to Ma Ying-jeou, KMT Chairman, August 1, 2005.

¹⁵⁸ Letter to the Taiwan Caucus from Ma Ying-jeou, Mayor of Taipei, August 18, 2005.

¹⁵⁹ *Chung-kuo Shih-pao [China times]*, Taipei, September 7, 2005.

Before the LY's session began on September 13, 2005, the Defense Ministry submitted a new Special Budget to cover submarines and P-3C aircraft, moving the request for PAC-3 missile defense to the regular budget (so that the Special Budget was about half of the original amount). LY President Wang Jin-pyng of the KMT acknowledged the reduction as a goodwill gesture and said that "it is time to address the issue."¹⁶⁰ On August 31, 2005, the Executive Yuan approved a Special Budget of NT\$340 billion (US\$10.3 billion), after removing NT\$140 billion (US\$4.2 billion) for PAC-3s. On September 28, 2005, the Defense Ministry issued details on its latest funding request for 8 submarines: about NT\$288 billion in the Special Budget and NT\$10.1 billion in the regular budget for a total of about US\$9 billion.¹⁶¹

Defense Department Warns of Limits to U.S. Help. When asked about the LY's delay in deciding to purchase U.S. weapons, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said in August 2005 that under the TRA, the U.S. obligation is "to work with Taiwan" on security assistance, but it is up to Taiwan make its own decisions.¹⁶² On September 19, 2005, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless issued another strong speech, this time directed at Taiwan's people and saying that he was not urging the passage of the Special Budget because it has become a political "distraction." Lawless applauded the goal of increasing the defense budget to 3% of GDP. He warned of the danger that "Taiwan's steadily declining defense budgets, and the resulting erosion in its own defense capabilities, also adversely affect the status quo," in addition to the PLA build-up. He expressed the U.S. expectation that Taiwan has the "collective will to invest in a viable defense to address a growing threat and be in a position to negotiate the future of cross-strait relations from a position of strength." He criticized the military for "short-changing itself on reserves of critical munitions" and inadequate "hardening" for defense. Lawless stressed that, under the TRA, Taiwan also has an obligation for its self-defense. He warned that

the time of reckoning is upon us.... The U.S. ability to contribute to Taiwan's defense in a crisis is going to be measured against Taiwan's ability to resist, defend, and survive based on its own capabilities.... As the lone superpower, our interests are plentiful and our attention short. We cannot help defend you, if you cannot defend yourself."¹⁶³

Separately, the Commander of the Pacific Command (PACOM), Admiral William Fallon raised questions in press articles and interviews about his assessment of whether Taiwan should prioritize its limited defense resources on "defensive" weapons rather than submarines, given Taiwan's urgent need to effectively upgrade its self-defense. Admiral Fallon reportedly raised this question with Taiwan's Chief of General Staff, General Lee Tien-yu, who recently had visited Hawaii. Admiral Fallon also told the *United Daily News* his concern that if he is to be able to maintain

¹⁶⁰ *Central News Agency*, Taipei, August 24, 2005; *Taipei Times*, August 25, 2005.

¹⁶¹ *Tung-sen Hsin-wen Pao*, Taipei, September 28, 2005.

¹⁶² Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, news briefing, August 23, 2005.

¹⁶³ Speech issued on September 19, 2005, in San Diego, CA, at the Defense Industry Conference of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, while Richard Lawless was delayed in Beijing at the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons. Edward Ross, a DSCA official, delivered the speech for Richard Lawless.

the U.S. commitment to assist Taiwan's defense, then Taiwan should have a strong self-defense capability.¹⁶⁴ On October 26, 2005, eight Members, led by Representative Simmons, asked Admiral Fallon to explain his discussions with Taiwan on submarines. Admiral Fallon responded that he has not tried to discourage this purchase. He added, however, that PACOM has "strongly and consistently encouraged [Taiwan] to acquire capabilities that would have an immediate impact on [its] defense," and "while submarines would provide Taiwan with significant capabilities, a lengthy period of time would be needed to fulfill this long-term acquisition program."¹⁶⁵

On October 29, 2005, at the transfer ceremony for the first two Kidd-class destroyers, Marine Brigadier General John Allen, Principal Director for Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, gave a speech, saying that "it is imperative that the people of Taiwan hold their leaders of all political parties accountable for reaching a consensus to increase defense spending," while it is not appropriate for the United States to tell Taiwan what "budgeting mechanism" to use. The U.S. role, he said, is to provide the "assistance necessary" to help Taiwan's strategy for stability, "but at the end of the day, it is Taiwan that must decide its fate."

In the first notification to Congress on arms sales to Taiwan since March 2004, the Defense Department in October 2005 put a new stress on the TRA's objective, which is to assist Taiwan to provide for its "own self-defense."

Like Lawless, the Director of DSCA, Air Force Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Kohler, also highlighted Taiwan's inadequate attention to its stocks of air-defense missiles and other munitions as well as pending decisions on defense spending, in an interview in December 2005.¹⁶⁶

At a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee on March 9, 2006, in response to Representative Rob Simmons' question about the submarine sale to Taiwan, Admiral William Fallon expressed the dilemma for PACOM regarding Taiwan. Fallon said that he was:

in bit of a box here, because I'm committed to defend this country in the event of any military aggression should that occur from the PRC, and yet the history is that they have not been forthcoming in investing in their own defense.... What I'd like to see is some steps being made, some investment by Taiwan to actually acquire some of these capabilities and to boost their own readiness and ability to provide for their own defense.

Special Budget Blocked in Legislature. On December 13, 2005, opposition lawmakers in the Procedures Committee voted for the 41st time to block

¹⁶⁴ *Japan Times*, September 26, 2005 [reprinted in *Washington Times*, October 8, 2005]; *Liberty Times* [Chinese-language newspaper in Taipei], October 12, 2005, which named General Lee Tien-yu; *Associated Press*, October 14, 2005 [reprinted in *Taipei Times*, October 16, 2005]; and *Lien-Ho Pao* [*United Daily News* in Taipei], October 18, 2005.

¹⁶⁵ Letter to Representative Simmons from Admiral William Fallon, November 8, 2005.

¹⁶⁶ Jim Wolf, "Pentagon Official Says Taiwan Short on Weapons," *Reuters*, Dec. 7, 2005.

the statute governing the Special Budget, keeping it from the LY's agenda since it was first introduced in 2004. However, at the Procedures Committee meeting on December 20, the DPP and its allied lawmakers called a vote at a moment when they had a majority, and the committee voted 12-5 to report the statute to the LY. On the eve of full LY consideration, the KMT and PFP chairmen, Ma Ying-jeou and James Soong, met and announced their joint opposition to a "wealthy fool's arms deal." The Ministry of Defense announced it will move the request for P-3s and reduce the Special Budget to one request of NT\$299 billion (US\$9 billion), about half of the original Special Budget, for submarines. Meanwhile, Representatives Rob Simmons and Tom Tancredo issued statements, saying the Special Budget was "critical for the defense of Taiwan" and applauded its passage out of the Procedures Committee. Representative Simmons also said that "blocking this arms package tells the United States — correctly or not — that Taiwan's leadership is not serious about the security of its people or its freedom. The American People have come to the aid of foreign countries in the name of freedom many times in our history; but Americans will not in good conscience support countries that are unwilling to defend themselves."¹⁶⁷

When the LY convened on December 23, 2005, to consider the Special Budget, KMT and PFP lawmakers proposed to end the meeting before debating the bill. Taiwan's lawmakers voted 113-100 to end the meeting 20 minutes after it began. This move effectively sent the bill on the Special Budget back to the Procedures Committee, which then voted as before to block its progress on December 27, 2005, January 3, and January 10, 2006, the 45th time that opposition lawmakers in the LY blocked the statute on the Special Defense Budget after its introduction in 2004.

Waiting for Ma Ying-jeou's KMT Defense Policy. LY president Wang Jin-pyng (KMT) visited Washington on January 24-25, 2006, and promised a KMT policy on defense from Ma Ying-jeou, including on arms sales, in February or March. Unlike his visit in 2004, Wang's highest-level interlocutors in the Pentagon were Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Mary Beth Long and the Principal Director for Asian and Pacific Affairs, Brigadier General John Allen. There were no results from this visit.

In February 2006, Representative Rob Simmons visited Taipei and suggested a lower cost for the submarine sale (perhaps \$8 billion) and an interim step for Taiwan to procure a sub design (perhaps \$225 million). Also in February, Representative Henry Hyde, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee sent a letter to Ma, citing "deep concern" in Congress about the LY's failure in the past two years to pass the Special Budget and about significant cuts in other defense spending that would improve readiness. Hyde also wrote that Americans are left wondering whether Taiwan's legislators have the resolve to meet the challenges in providing for Taiwan's own defense.¹⁶⁸ In a March 7 letter, Ma responded to Representative Hyde by blaming the DPP administration and promising his own policy in the near future.

¹⁶⁷ Rep. Rob Simmons, "U.S. Congressman Congratulates Taiwan on Defense Spending Bill Progress," news release, December 21, 2005.

¹⁶⁸ Letter from Henry Hyde to Ma Ying-jeou, Chairman of the KMT, February 15, 2006.

While the House Taiwan Caucus, in August 2005, had invited KMT chairman Ma Ying-jeou to visit, he scheduled a trip to Washington for March 22-23, 2006, while Congress was in recess. Ma failed on March 14 to gain his party's approval to issue a long-awaited policy on defense and arms procurement, despite his upcoming visit to Washington. Ma had no details on his defense priorities in meetings during his visit (with the private sector and the Bush Administration). While campaigning to be president, Ma issued a defense policy in September 2007 with a stance that supported purchases of U.S. weapons, including submarines.

Supplemental Budget Instead of Special Budget. When the LY reconvened on February 21, 2006, the Procedures Committee blocked the statute on the Special Budget for the 46th time. Thus, in a March 20 special report to the LY, Defense Minister Lee Jye decided to request procurement of subs and P-3s through supplemental funds in the regular 2006 defense budget (instead of the Special Budget): NT\$200 million (about US\$6 million) as “working fees” to study a sub procurement program and NT\$1.7 billion (about US\$52 million) for P-3C aircraft. The Defense Ministry then decided also to request supplemental funds of NT\$3.7 billion (about US\$113 million) for PAC-2 upgrades (not PAC-3 missiles), as urged by LY President Wang. The supplemental request for the 2006 budget for these three weapon systems totaled NT\$5.6 billion (about US\$172 million). This amount for the three proposed programs was included in the minister's broader 2006 Supplemental Budget request of NT\$13.7 billion (about US\$420 million) for 74 programs.¹⁶⁹

In March 2006, the Defense Ministry submitted its request to the Executive Yuan (EY), or Cabinet, which then approved on May 24 a Supplemental Budget for the 2006 defense budget of NT\$6.3 billion (about US\$194 million) with the three weapons requests plus NT\$700 million for construction of an airstrip on Taiwan-controlled Taiping island (in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea). The Supplemental Budget also needed to be approved by the LY, but its session ended on May 30 and KMT legislators, including Lin Yu-Fang, raised concerns, particularly about the supplemental budget's legal basis.¹⁷⁰ The LY decided on June 12 to hold a special session on June 13-30, but consideration of the Supplemental Budget for defense was not on the agenda that focused on trying to recall President Chen from office. On June 14, the EY approved a draft bill to govern the Supplemental Budget. The KMT demanded in mid-October 2006 that the DPP Administration withdraw the original Special Budget if the Supplemental Budget was to be considered. While the DPP agreed to this compromise, it fell apart when the KMT and PFP still voted on October 24 to oppose placing the 2006 supplemental request on the LY's agenda.

This outcome prompted the U.S. Representative in Taipei, Stephen Young, to call a press conference two days later, at which he strongly urged the LY to “pass a robust defense budget in this fall's legislative session.” He pressed the legislators to

¹⁶⁹ CNA, March 20 and April 4, 2006; Special Report of the Ministry of Defense, March 20, 2006; and author's interviews in Taipei in April 2006.

¹⁷⁰ During consultations in Taipei in April 2006, Lin Yu-fang said that a Supplemental Budget request would be illegal, that the issue is not the budgeting mechanism but whether the three weapon systems should be procured, and that such requests could “crowd out” other funding needs of the army and air force or other ministries.

“permit the supplemental budget to pass through the procedural committee and be taken to the floor of the legislature so that an open debate can begin.”¹⁷¹ However, his remarks stirred controversy in Taiwan’s charged domestic political context. In defiance of this latest U.S. message, the opposition KMT and PFP legislators voted in the Procedures Committee on October 31 to block the Supplemental Budget. On December 26, 2006, after some opponents forgot to vote against the supplemental bill, it was passed out of the Procedures Committee. Three days later, the LY voted (194-162) to allow committee review of the draft bill governing the supplemental budget but returned the supplemental budget to the Procedures Committee.

2007 Defense Budget. Taiwan finally reversed the negative trend in defense spending with an increase in 2007. In August 2006, Taiwan’s Executive Yuan (Cabinet) approved a proposed **2007** defense budget of NT\$323.5 billion (US\$9.8 billion), an increase of NT\$71 billion (US\$2.2 billion).¹⁷² A proposal to buy F-16C/D fighters made up NT\$16.1 billion (US\$488 million) of this increase.¹⁷³ Without a Special Budget or 2006 Supplemental Budget, the Bush Administration, U.S. industry, and Congress shifted the focus to whether the LY would approve the 2007 defense budget with a spending increase during what was considered its critical September 2006 to January 2007 session. At the U.S.-Taiwan defense industry conference on September 10-12, 2006, the Defense Department declined to even issue a policy address to Taiwan, after making the effort in 2004 and 2005. The State Department’s Director of the Taiwan office warned Taiwan’s political figures from opposition and ruling parties that “leaders who aspire to represent the Taiwan people” to the United States should recognize that their decisions “right now on core national security issues” will have an impact on the future bilateral relationship. He also focused attention on how the LY will pass the 2007 defense budget “this fall.”¹⁷⁴

On November 6, 2006, the LY’s defense and budget committees jointly passed an amended 2007 defense budget. They approved requested funds to procure P-3C ASW planes and PAC-2 upgrades; deleted about US\$347 million for PAC-3 missiles; and cut the request for the sub program from about US\$139 million to US\$6 million (for the LY’s own “feasibility study” for subs). They also froze funds for F-16C/D fighters for five months (ending on May 31, 2007), pending U.S. provision of price and availability data. However, the LY session ended on January 19, 2007, without passing a government budget, including the 2007 defense budget, because of another political dispute. Finally, on June 15, 2007, the LY passed the 2007 Defense Budget, with about: \$6 million to conduct a “feasibility study” on buying submarines (not a commitment to either design phase or submarines); \$188 million for P-3C planes; \$110 million for PAC-2 upgrades (and no funds for PAC-3 missiles); and \$488 million for F-16C/D fighters (with funds frozen until October 31 pending U.S. approval). The final 2007 defense budget totaled NT\$304.9 billion (US\$9.2 billion), accounting for 2.4% of GDP.

¹⁷¹ AIT Director Stephen Young, press conference, Taipei, October 26, 2006.

¹⁷² CNA, August 23, 2006.

¹⁷³ Author’s consultations with MND officials, September 2006.

¹⁷⁴ Clifford Hart, speech to the U.S.-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference, September 12, 2006, Denver, CO.

2008 Defense Budget. Regarding the 2008 defense budget, the Defense Ministry requested and the Executive Yuan approved in August 2007 a budget of NT\$349.5 billion (US\$10.6 billion), an increase of 15%. However, on December 20, 2007, the LY approved the final 2008 defense budget that totaled NT\$341.1 billion (US\$10.5 billion), making up 2.5% of GDP. The budget included funds (but also froze some of the funds) for procurement of PAC-2 upgrades, PAC-3 missiles, P-3C planes, sub design phase, F-16C/D fighters, utility helicopters, and attack helicopters.

Policy Reviews and U.S. Objectives. During Taiwan's politically-motivated impasse over funding for self-defense, a former Pentagon official warned that if Taiwan did not pass the Special Budget and there were no expected improvements in defense, the United States would be more hesitant to approve future requests for weapons and possibly conduct a review of policy toward Taiwan.¹⁷⁵

Congress has a role in oversight of any reviews of policy toward Taiwan. In September 1994, the Clinton Administration explicitly and publicly testified to Congress about a major Taiwan Policy Review.¹⁷⁶ Defense ties would likely be included in any policy reviews of how to enhance leverage over Taiwan and affect the cross-strait situation, including whether to limit defense ties, apply conditions, or strengthen ties. Policy promotes the U.S. objectives of assisting Taiwan's self-defense capability, preventing conflict, minimizing the chance of U.S. intervention, dispelling dangerous misperceptions, and promoting cross-strait dialogue. While U.S. objectives have been consistent, developments in China and Taiwan since the 1970s have required U.S. re-assessments and responses.

In late 2002, the Pentagon reportedly conducted a policy review of cooperation with Taiwan that examined whether its leaders have taken defense seriously, whether defense cooperation with Taiwan has been effective, and whether U.S. policy should change.¹⁷⁷ (The NSC, State Department, and AIT would have input into any review by the Administration of policy toward Taiwan.)¹⁷⁸ At the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council's conference on Taiwan's defense in February 2003, in San Antonio, TX, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Lawless told Taiwan's Vice Defense Minister Chen Chao-min and others that, while the President said that we will do whatever it takes to help Taiwan defend itself, Taiwan "should not view America's resolute commitment to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait as a substitute for investing the necessary resources in its own defense." At the same occasion, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randall Schriver indicated a new proactive U.S.

¹⁷⁵ Interview with Mark Stokes, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and Country Director in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, in *Taipei Times*, April 24, 2005.

¹⁷⁶ Testimony of Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord, "Taiwan Policy Review," before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on September 27, 1994. See CRS Report RL30341, *China/Taiwan: Evolution of the "One China" Policy — Key Statements from Washington, Beijing, and Taipei*, by Shirley Kan.

¹⁷⁷ *Taiwan Defense Review*, January 18, 2003.

¹⁷⁸ *The Nelson Report* (January 31, 2003) reported there was an interagency East Asia Policy Review.

approach to Taiwan's defense modernization, pointing Taiwan to three priorities: missile defense, C4ISR, and ASW.

Taiwan's election in March 2004 brought the re-election of President Chen Shui-bian and his advocacy of a new constitution for Taiwan by 2008. In April 2004, the Defense and State Departments testified to the House International Relations Committee, expressing a readjustment in the Bush Administration's policy toward Taiwan.¹⁷⁹ Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly clarified U.S. policy by stating:

- The United States “does not support” independence for Taiwan or unilateral moves that would change the status quo “as we define it” and opposes statements or actions from either side that would unilaterally alter Taiwan’s “status.”
- U.S. efforts at deterring PRC coercion “might fail” if Beijing ever becomes convinced Taiwan is embarked upon a course toward independence and permanent separation from China, and concludes that Taiwan must be stopped.
- It would be “irresponsible” of us or of Taiwan’s leaders to treat the PRC’s statements as “empty threats.”
- The United States looks to President Chen to exercise the kind of responsible, democratic, and restrained leadership that will be necessary to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for Taiwan.
- There are “limitations” with respect to what the United States will support as Taiwan considers possible changes to its constitution.
- We urge Beijing and Taipei to pursue dialogue “as soon as possible” through any available channels “without preconditions.”

One policy issue is the relative stress on cross-strait dialogue vs. deterrence. In his testimony, Assistant Secretary of State Kelly argued that a premise of arms sales to Taiwan has been that “a secure and self-confident Taiwan is a Taiwan that is more capable of engaging in political interaction and dialogue with the PRC, and we expect Taiwan will not interpret our support as a blank check to resist such dialogue.” However, some observers have begun to question the continued validity of this premise. James Lilley, former ambassador in Beijing and representative in Taipei, warned in April 2004 that:

The implicit American premise was that a secure and stable Taiwan would be a more willing and successful partner in dealing with China. Judicious arms sales to Taiwan were part of this formula and in the past it has worked.... If elements of this broader formula are disregarded by the current Taiwan authorities, however, then the successful historic pattern has been broken. U.S. military support and arms sales cannot be used by Taiwan to move away from China — they were meant to make Taiwan feel secure enough to move toward accommodation with China. Our support should be conditional on upholding our successful pattern.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁹ House International Relations Committee, hearing on “The Taiwan Relations Act: The Next 25 Years,” April 21, 2004.

¹⁸⁰ James Lilley, “Strait Talk,” *Wall Street Journal*, April 19, 2004.

Any policy review might be coordinated with allies in Asia and Europe. While in Beijing in August 2004, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer reportedly expressed doubts about whether any U.S. military help for Taiwan's defense against China would involve invoking Australia's defense treaty with the United States.¹⁸¹ In February 2005, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with Japan's Ministers for Defense and Foreign Affairs issued a Joint Statement of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee ("2+2 statement"). They declared that a common strategic objective is to "encourage the peaceful resolution of issues concerning the Taiwan Strait through dialogue." China objected to the alliance's mere mention of Taiwan. In December 2007, the Council of the European Union approved "Guidelines on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy in East Asia" that expressed concerns about stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Greater cross-strait integration has raised concerns about the leakage of military technology and secrets from Taiwan to mainland China. As supporters of Taiwan wrote in October 2006, "there is little sense in America's continued support of Taiwan's defenses if Taiwan has no intention of using them to deter attack by the Chinese. Washington is increasingly alarmed that Taiwan's politicians — wittingly or unwittingly — are shifting responsibility for their island's defense from Taipei to Beijing, thus jeopardizing the integrity of U.S. defense technology that has already been transferred to Taiwan."¹⁸²

Visits by Generals to Taiwan. As for senior-level contacts, the United States and Taiwan have held high-level defense-related meetings in the United States, as discussed above. U.S. policy previously restricted high-level military contacts but changed to welcome Taiwan's senior military officers and defense officials to visit the United States, shifting the question to their willingness to make the visits. At the same time, the State Department's policy has avoided sending to Taiwan U.S. flag and general officers or officials at or above the level of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense or State. For a hearing in 1999, Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth responded to a submitted question on this issue by writing that "following the 1994 policy review, the Administration authorized travel by high-level officials, including cabinet officers, from economic and technical agencies. However, restrictions remained at the same level for visitors from military or national security agencies at or above the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary and at the rank of one-star flag officer or above. This policy is based on the determination that visits of such officials would be inconsistent with maintaining an unofficial relationship."¹⁸³

The State Department issued guidelines on relations with Taiwan to continue the policy to ban official travel to Taiwan for State or Defense Department officials above the level of office director or for uniformed military personnel above the rank

¹⁸¹ Catherine Armitage, "Downer Assures China on Taiwan," *The Australian*, August 18, 2004.

¹⁸² Michael Needham and John Tkacik, "Grim Future for Taiwan's Defenses," Heritage Foundation Web Memo, October 31, 2006.

¹⁸³ Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hearing on "United States-Taiwan Relations: the 20th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act," March 25, 1999.

of O-6 (colonel, navy captain).¹⁸⁴ The Pentagon and some in Congress have sought to lift this restriction in order to advance U.S. interests in boosting Taiwan's deterrence capability and U.S. leverage in Taiwan. Senior-level exchanges could help to understand Taiwan's crisis-management and self-defense capabilities and limitations.¹⁸⁵ The TRA does not specify unofficial or official relations with Taiwan. Some have cited the NSC's record of sending senior officials to Taipei for clear and direct talks.¹⁸⁶ The NSC, State Department, and some in Congress have opposed sending senior military officers and defense officials to Taiwan as an unnecessary, ineffective change to a sensitive situation. (See congressional actions, below.)

Taiwan's Missile Program. Referencing the TRA's Section 2(b)(5) "to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character," policy-makers face a question of how to respond to Taiwan's increasing interest in counter-strike missiles (ballistic and cruise missiles). Some politicians in Taiwan and U.S. advocates talk about missiles as a deterrent.¹⁸⁷ Some Americans see Taiwan's strategy as inherently defensive against the PRC, with tactical utility for missiles. Others call this desire for long-range weapons unhelpful for stability and U.S. escalation control.¹⁸⁸ Bush Administration officials reportedly raised objections to Taiwan's missile programs.¹⁸⁹ However, this objection raised an issue of whether the Administration contradicted its past position and undermined Taiwan's defense.¹⁹⁰ Another issue covered whether the refusal to consider Taiwan's request for F-16C/Ds undermines this position. A third issue was whether the U.S. stance should be stronger and clearer.

At a press conference in October 2006, the U.S. Representative in Taipei, Stephen Young, said that U.S. policy helps Taiwan to have self-defense, "not to attack the mainland, because that was never in the cards and still isn't now, but to defend itself." By April 2007, the Administration became more concerned about a misperception of U.S. assistance for or approval of Taiwan's Hsiung-feng 2E (HF-2E) land-attack cruise missile program. Also, U.S. officials reportedly linked Taiwan's planned deployment of such missiles to consideration of a request for F-16C/D fighters.¹⁹¹ Right after Taiwan's Han Kuang exercise in April 2007, the new PACOM Commander, Admiral Timothy Keating, testified to Congress about the situation in the Taiwan Strait while expecting Dennis Blair's full briefing on the

¹⁸⁴ Department of State, "Guidelines on Relations with Taiwan," February 2, 2001.

¹⁸⁵ Dan Blumenthal and Gary Schmitt, "A Strange Calculus," *Wall Street Journal*, August 21, 2006; Therese Shaheen, "Why is the U.S. Ignoring Taiwan?" *Wall Street Journal*, June 14, 2007.

¹⁸⁶ The NSC has sent the Senior Director for Asian Affairs, including James Moriarty and Michael Green, to Taiwan. For example: *Far Eastern Economic Review*, May 20, 2004.

¹⁸⁷ John Tkacik, "The Best Defense is a Good Offense," *Taipei Times*, February 14, 2007.

¹⁸⁸ Michael McDevitt, "For Taiwan, the Best Defense is not a Good Offense," PacNet Newsletter #9, February 22, 2007.

¹⁸⁹ *Lien-ho Pao*, Taipei, October 21, 2006, quoting unnamed U.S. officials.

¹⁹⁰ Rupert Hammond-Chambers, President of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, "Taiwan Goes It Alone," *Defense News*, and "Special Commentary," February 25, 2008.

¹⁹¹ *Defense News*, July 16, 2007.

exercise. Keating stressed “how emphatically we emphasize to [Taiwan] that [its] actions should be defensive in nature and not offensive.”¹⁹² Finally, because the Han Kuang military exercise included demonstration of the use of the LACM to Blair, a National Security Council official publicly stated,

We think that developing defensive capabilities is the right thing to do. We think that offensive capabilities on either side of the Strait are destabilizing and, therefore, not in the interest of peace and stability. So when you ask me whether I am for offensive missiles, I’m not for offensive missiles on the Chinese side of the Strait, and I’m not for offensive missiles on the Taiwan side of the Strait. But appropriate defense capabilities are certainly the right of the people of Taiwan.¹⁹³

AIT Director Stephen Young followed up at a press conference in Taipei in early May, stating that “there were claims that the United States Government approved of the use of long-range offensive missiles during the [Han Kuang military] exercise and that they even offered a name for these systems. I want to say categorically here, on behalf of the U.S. Government, that these stories are inaccurate.” He added that “what we think Taiwan should be placing its emphasis on, is missile defense,” citing the PAC-3 missile defense system.¹⁹⁴ Despite the lack of U.S. support, in December 2007, Taiwan’s LY approved about \$117 million but froze \$77 million for the HF-2E program in the final 2008 defense budget.

President Bush’s “Freeze” on Arms Sales. As discussed above, President Bush changed policy in April 2001 to consider Taiwan’s arms requests routinely on an as-needed basis, similar to acceptance of other foreign requests for security assistance. However, the Administration’s refusal to accept a formal request from Taiwan for F-16C/D fighters since 2006 has raised the issue of whether the Administration is in violation of its own policy and the TRA. In October 2007, the House passed **H.Res. 676**, and Senator Lisa Murkowski wrote a letter to National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley. (See *110th Congress* below.) Aside from questioning and reviewing the Administration’s approaches toward Taiwan’s requests, another policy option is to resurrect the annual arms sales talks.¹⁹⁵

After the inauguration of Taiwan’s President Ma Ying-jeou on May 20, 2008, he promptly resumed a dialogue with the PRC on June 12-13, resulting in expanded charter flights and tourism across the Taiwan Strait in July. While the resumption of the dialogue for the first time in a decade was welcomed, both the Ma and Bush Administrations were concerned about the timing of announcements on arms sales to Taiwan during the first round of the resumed dialogue.¹⁹⁶ Some are concerned that the Administration suspended arms sales, but the Administration denies a freeze.

¹⁹² Senate Armed Services Committee’s hearing on April 24, 2007.

¹⁹³ Dennis Wilder, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asian Affairs, NSC, remarks at a Foreign Press Center Briefing, April 26, 2007.

¹⁹⁴ AIT Director Stephen Young, press conference, Taipei, May 3, 2007.

¹⁹⁵ Mark Stokes, “Taiwan Must Review Security Risks,” *Taipei Times*, March 12, 2008. See CRS Report RS20365, *Taiwan: Annual Arms Sales Process*, June 5, 2001, by Shirley Kan.

¹⁹⁶ *Washington Post*, June 12, 2008; *Defense News*, June 16, 2008.

Nonetheless, the Administration has delayed sending notifications to Congress on eight approved, pending arms sales programs with a total value of as much as \$13 billion (for a submarine design, Patriot PAC-3 missile defense systems, Apache helicopters, Blackhawk helicopters, E2-T airborne early warning aircraft upgrade, aircraft parts, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and Javelin anti-tank missiles).

Critics in Congress suspect that the Administration suspended arms sales to Taiwan and risks running out of time to submit notifications to Congress given the adjournment in late September. It is also nearing the end of budget year in Taiwan. Congress also is concerned about the lack of timely and complete information from the Administration. They fear that the President is deferring to objections in Beijing or other policy considerations. Even before June, Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte testified to Senator Lisa Murkowski at the Foreign Relations Committee on May 15, 2008, that after Taiwan's legislature approved funding of the weapons programs (which was in December 2007), the Administration did not take nor planned subsequent steps in arms sales. Despite the lack of notifications to Congress on pending arms sales to Taiwan (since the last notification in November 2007), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs James Shinn denied at a hearing that "we made a decision to put things in abeyance" in testimony on June 25.¹⁹⁷ (Also see actions under *110th Congress* below.)

Congress also has questions about the security strategy and defense policy of President Ma Ying-jeou, particularly given the past ambivalence of the KMT party. Some question the outcome of the KMT's review of pending U.S. arms programs, reportedly including whether to pursue the submarine purchase.¹⁹⁸ Nonetheless, Taiwan has shown greater concern about the Bush Administration's suspension of arms sales. On July 12, 2008, Ma finally clarified publicly that Taiwan still considers the U.S. arms programs as important and urgent, in spite of the cross-strait talks.¹⁹⁹ When Wang Jin-pyng, President of the LY, visited Washington on July 27-August 1, U.S. officials told him that the Administration has not imposed a "freeze," continues to adhere to the TRA, and is working on the notifications.

On July 16, 2008, PACOM Commander Admiral Timothy Keating confirmed at a public event at the Heritage Foundation that the Administration's current policy is to freeze arms sales to Taiwan. Moreover, Keating implied that arms sales would be "destabilizing" to the situation in the Taiwan Strait and that there is no pressing compelling need for arms sales to Taiwan at this moment, even as he acknowledged a cross-strait military imbalance favoring the PRC. In contrast, former PACOM Commander Dennis Blair who just visited Taiwan in June said that Taiwan's military and civilian leaders understand the need to negotiate with the PRC from a position

¹⁹⁷ House Armed Services Committee, hearing on China: Recent Security Developments, June 25, 2008.

¹⁹⁸ See CRS Report RL34441, *Security Implications of Taiwan's Presidential Election of March 2008*, April 4, 2008, by Shirley Kan.

¹⁹⁹ *DPA*, July 12, 2008, and *Taiwan News*, July 13, 2008.

of strength and to maintain Taiwan's defense.²⁰⁰ Also, former Bush Administration officials have urged President Bush to keep his commitment on Taiwan.²⁰¹

Major Congressional Action

105th Congress. In the 105th Congress, the FY1999 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 105-261) required the Secretary of Defense to study the U.S. missile defense systems that could protect and could be transferred to "key regional allies," defined as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.²⁰² In addition, the conference report (H.Rept. 105-746 of the FY1999 Defense Appropriations Act, P.L. 105-262) required a report from the Pentagon on the security situation in the Taiwan Strait, in both classified and unclassified forms.²⁰³

106th Congress. In the 106th Congress, Representative Ben Gilman, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, wrote President Clinton on April 19, 1999, urging approval for the sale of long-range early warning radars to Taiwan. He also wrote Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on April 22, 1999, saying that if the Administration did not approve the sale, he would introduce legislation to do so. In the end, the Clinton Administration decided in principle to sell early warning radars to Taiwan. The State Department spokesperson confirmed that the United States agreed on the request in principle and acknowledged that under the TRA, "the President and Congress determined which defense articles and services Taiwan needs."²⁰⁴ The Pentagon spokesperson also confirmed that the United States "agreed to work with the Taiwanese to evaluate their early warning radar needs, and that will take place over the next year or so, but there is no specific agreement on a specific type of radar, specific sale, or specific terms of sale at this time."²⁰⁵

In July 1999, after President Clinton reportedly delayed a visit to Taiwan by Pentagon officials and considered a cutoff of arms sales after President Lee Teng-hui said Taiwan and the PRC have a "special state-to-state relationship," Representative

²⁰⁰ Wendell Minnick, "China Wields New Diplomatic Skills Against Taiwan," *Defense News*, July 7, 2008.

²⁰¹ Ed Ross, (former DSCA official), "Arming Taiwan," *Wall Street Journal Asia*, July 18, 2008; Dan Blumenthal, Aaron Friedberg, Randall Schriver, Ashley Tellis, "Bush Should Keep His Word on Taiwan," *Wall Street Journal*, July 19, 2008.

²⁰² Department of Defense, "Report to Congress on Theater Missile Defense Architecture Options for the Asia-Pacific Region," unclassified version, May 1999; CRS Report RL30379, *Missile Defense Options for Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan: A Review of the Defense Department Report to Congress*, by Robert D. Shuey and Shirley A. Kan. November 30, 1999.

²⁰³ Department of Defense, "Report to Congress Pursuant to the FY99 Appropriations Bill, The Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait," unclassified version, February 1, 1999; CRS Report RS20187, *Taiwan's Defense: Assessing the U.S. Department of Defense Report, "The Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait,"* by Robert Sutter.

²⁰⁴ Shenon, Philip, "U.S. Plans to Sell Radar to Taiwan to Monitor China," *New York Times*, April 30, 1999; Department of State, Daily Press Briefing, April 29, 1999.

²⁰⁵ Defense Department News Briefing, April 30, 1999.

Gilman responded by threatening to suspend all U.S. arms sales. He stated that “I cannot accept undercutting Taiwan’s national security and its right under the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act to receive appropriate security assistance from our nation to meet its legitimate self-defense needs. Accordingly, as a result of my concern, I plan at this point to withhold my approval for arms transfers notified to the Congress until this matter is resolved to my satisfaction.”²⁰⁶

Also, Members debated whether the “Taiwan Security Enhancement Act (TSEA)” (S. 693, Helms; H.R. 1838, DeLay) was needed to better assist Taiwan or was unnecessary and counterproductive in a delicate situation, as the Clinton Administration maintained. The TSEA also raised attention to U.S.-Taiwan military exchanges, including that on communication and training. The Pentagon was said to have supported the spirit of the bill, although not its passage.²⁰⁷ The TSEA was not enacted, although the House passed H.R. 1838 on February 1, 2000, by 341-70.

Seeking more information from the Pentagon on which to base its considerations, Congress passed the FY2000 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-65), requiring annual reports on PRC military power and the security situation in the Taiwan Strait.²⁰⁸ Also, in consolidated appropriations legislation for FY2000 (P.L. 106-113), Congress required a report on the operational planning of the Department of Defense to implement the TRA and any gaps in knowledge about PRC capabilities and intentions affecting the military balance in the Taiwan Strait.²⁰⁹

Concerning Congress’s role *before* the Administration’s decisions on arms sales and formal notifications, the 106th Congress passed language, introduced by Senator Lott, in the FY2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (in Div. B of P.L. 106-113), requiring the Secretary of State to consult with Congress to devise a mechanism for congressional input in determining arms sales to Taiwan. Again, in the FY2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-429), Congress passed the Taiwan Reporting Requirement, requiring the President to consult on a classified basis with Congress 30 days prior to the next round of arms sales talks. (Those required consultations took place on March 16, 2001.)

107th Congress. In the 107th Congress, some Members opposed the sale of Aegis-equipped destroyers, because they could be interpreted as offensive rather than defensive sales and could involve significant interaction with the U.S. military, as Senators Feinstein and Thomas (chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs) wrote in the *Washington Times* on March 28, 2001. Other Members — 83 in the House (led by Representatives Cox and Wu) and 20 in

²⁰⁶ Quoted in “Clinton Confirms Rebuke to Taiwan,” *Washington Times*, July 22, 1999.

²⁰⁷ Steven M. Goldstein and Randall Schriver (former official in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs), “An Uncertain Relationship: The United States, Taiwan, and the Taiwan Relations Act,” *China Quarterly*, March 2001.

²⁰⁸ Department of Defense, “Annual Report on the Military Power of the People’s Republic of China,” unclassified version, June 2000 and July 2002.

²⁰⁹ Department of Defense, “Report to Congress on Implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act,” unclassified version, December 2000.

the Senate (led by Senators Helms and Torricelli) — wrote letters to President Bush on April 3, 2001, urging approval of the sale of those destroyers. A March 2001 staff report to Senator Helms of the Foreign Relations Committee called for meeting Taiwan’s defense needs, particularly for submarines and destroyers.²¹⁰

In addition, some in Congress urged the Administration to deliver AMRAAMs to Taiwan after the *Washington Times* on July 1, 2002, reported that, in June, two SU-30 fighters of the PLA Air Force test-fired AA-12 medium-range air-to-air missiles acquired from Russia. The report raised questions as to whether the PLA already deployed the missiles, meeting one of the conditions by which the United States would deliver the AMRAAMs to Taiwan — rather than keep them in storage — as approved for sale by the Clinton Administration in 2000. On July 16, 2002, Senators Kyl, Helms, Bob Smith, and Torricelli wrote Secretary of State Colin Powell, urging the Bush Administration to allow the transfer of AMRAAMS to Taiwan “as soon as they are produced” rather than “quibble over whether the AA-12 tests mean that China has an ‘operational’ capability.”

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2002 (P.L. 107-107), enacted on December 28, 2001, authorized the President to transfer (by sale) the four Kidd-class destroyers to Taiwan (Section 1011), under Section 21 of the AECA. Also, Section 1221 of the act required a new section in the annual report on PRC military power (as required by P.L. 106-65) to assess the PLA’s military acquisitions and any implications for the security of the United States and its friends and allies. The scope of arms transfers to be covered was not limited to those from Russia and other former Soviet states, as in the original House language (H.R. 2586).²¹¹

The Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for FY2002 (P.L. 107-115), enacted on January 10, 2002, brought unprecedented close coordination between the Executive and Legislative branches on arms sales to Taiwan. Section 573 required the Departments of State and Defense to provide detailed briefings (not specified as classified) to congressional committees (including those on appropriations) within 90 days of enactment and not later than every 120 days thereafter during FY2002. The briefings were required to report on U.S.-Taiwan discussions on potential sales of defense articles or services to Taiwan.

Some Members called for ensuring regular and high-level consultations with Taiwan and a role for Congress in determining arms sales to Taiwan, after President Bush announced on April 24, 2001 (the day of the last annual arms sales talks), that he would drop the annual arms talks process with Taiwan in favor of normal, routine considerations on an “as-needed” basis.²¹² Due to the absence of diplomatic relations, successive administrations used a process in determining arms sales to Taiwan that

²¹⁰ Senate Foreign Relations Committee, “U.S. Defense Policy Toward Taiwan: In Need of an Overhaul,” a Staff Trip Report to the Committee on Foreign Relations, S. Prt. 107-26, by James Doran, printed April 2001.

²¹¹ Still, the Pentagon’s report, issued on July 12, 2002, discussed China’s military acquisitions from states of the former Soviet Union, and not other countries (e.g., Israel).

²¹² Milbank, Dana and Mike Allen, “Bush to Drop Annual Review of Weapons Sales to Taiwan,” *Washington Post*, April 25, 2001.

was institutionalized in the early 1980s as annual rounds of talks with Taiwan defense authorities consisting of several phases leading up to final meetings usually in April.²¹³ In overseeing the new process, factors or implications to consider included the following:

- Congress's role in decision-making and ability to exercise oversight
- role of arms sales talks in the broader long-range and joint defense strategy for Taiwan (vs. a narrower focus on specific requests)
- role of arms sales in U.S. diplomatic and defense policies (including various elements of the "one China" policy)
- U.S. objectives for the Taiwan military
- nature of the U.S.-Taiwan military relationship
- extent of high-level U.S.-Taiwan military exchanges
- effect of an annual high-profile controversy on U.S. interests
- usefulness to Congress and Taiwan of a deadline for decisions
- influence of various interest groups in a more defused process
- changes in high-level, intensive attention given by the White House and its coordination of the inter-agency debates
- changes in the Pentagon's basis for recommendations
- Taiwan's desire to receive similar treatment given to others
- consultations with allies, including Japan.

The Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FYs 2002 and 2003 (H.R. 1646), passed in the House on May 16, 2001, contained provisions on arms sales to Taiwan. First, H.R. 1646 included authority (in Section 851) for the President to sell the four Kidd-class destroyers to Taiwan. Second, as proposed by Representative Brad Sherman in the House International Relations Committee, Section 813 sought to require that Taiwan be treated as the "equivalent of a major non-NATO ally" for defense transfers under the AECA or the Foreign Assistance Act, while the language stopped short of designating Taiwan as a major non-NATO ally. According to the Member's office, the provision would show tangible support for Taiwan's defense, provide it with status similar to that given to Australia, New Zealand, and Argentina, offer it the "right of first refusal" for EDA, and treat it with enhanced status for anti-terrorism assistance, cooperative research and development projects in the defense area, and expedited review in satellite licensing. Third, Representative Gary Ackerman introduced Section 814 to require the President to consult annually with Congress and Taiwan about the availability of defense articles and services for Taiwan. The consultations with Taiwan would occur at a level not lower than that of the Vice Chief of General Staff and in Washington, DC — as has been the case.

Finally enacted as P.L. 107-228 on September 30, 2002, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY2003 authorized — at the Bush Administration's request — the Department of State and other departments or agencies (including the Department of Defense) to detail employees to AIT (Section 326); required that Taiwan be "treated as though it were designated a major non-NATO ally" (Section 1206); required consultations with Congress on U.S. security assistance to Taiwan every 180 days (Section 1263); and authorized the sale to Taiwan of the four Kidd-

²¹³ See CRS Report RS20365, *Taiwan: Annual Arms Sales Process*, by Shirley A. Kan.

class destroyers (Section 1701).²¹⁴ Section 326, amending the Foreign Service Act of 1980, has significant implications for the assignment of government officials to AIT, including active-duty military personnel for the first time since 1979. (Employees have been separated from government service for a period of time in the name of “unofficial” relations, but personnel issues have affected AIT and its contractors. Defense Department personnel, including those supporting security assistance, have been civilian staff and retired or resigned military personnel.)

In signing the bill into law on September 30, 2002, President Bush issued a statement that included criticism of Section 1206 (“major non-NATO ally”). He said that “Section 1206 could be misconstrued to imply a change in the ‘one China’ policy of the United States when, in fact, that U.S. policy remains unchanged. To the extent that this section could be read to purport to change United States policy, it impermissibly interferes with the President’s constitutional authority to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs.”

Nonetheless, the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Michael Wynne, submitted a letter to Congress on August 29, 2003, that designated Taiwan as a “major non-NATO ally” under Section 1206. The are implications for defense industrial cooperation with Taiwan, under Section 65 of the Arms Export Control Act (P.L. 90-629).

The FY2003 National Defense Authorization Act, passed in the House on May 10, 2002, contained Section 1202 seeking to require the Secretary of Defense to implement a comprehensive plan to conduct combined training and exchanges of senior officers with Taiwan’s military and to “enhance interoperability” with Taiwan’s military.²¹⁵ The language was similar to that of Section 5(b) in the “Taiwan Security Enhancement Act” proposed in the 106th Congress. The Senate’s version, passed on June 27, 2002, did not have the language. The *Washington Times* reported on August 9, 2002, that the Department of State opposed the language as unnecessary (given U.S. support under the TRA).

As Members worked out differences in conference, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz wrote in a letter to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on September 27, 2002, that “while we welcome Congress’ support for the U.S. commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act and for the President’s commitment to the defense of Taiwan, we believe that the objectives of Section 1202 are best achieved by preserving the traditional statutory role of the Secretary to exercise authority, direction, and control over the Department of Defense to conduct such activities as are needed to support those commitments, including his authority to preserve the confidentiality of those activities.” The Pentagon “strongly recommends that this provision be deleted, although we would not object to language

²¹⁴ For more details on proposed House and Senate language, see “Arms Sales to Taiwan,” in CRS Report RL31046, *Foreign Relations Authorization, FY2003: An Overview*, coordinated by Susan B. Epstein.

²¹⁵ For an argument for enhancing interoperability with Taiwan, see Justin Bernier (staffer for the House Armed Services Committee) and Stuart Gold, “China’s Closing Window of Opportunity,” *Naval War College Review*, summer 2003.

that would call upon the Department to brief the Congress periodically on progress we are making to meet our commitments to Taiwan security,” Wolfowitz wrote. As enacted on December 2, 2002, the FY2003 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 107-314) contained a revised section (1210), requiring a Presidential report 180 days after the act’s enactment (due May 31, 2003) on the feasibility and advisability of conducting combined operational training and exchanges of senior officers with Taiwan’s military. (U.S. policy has allowed Taiwan’s senior military officers and defense officials to visit the United States, while not sending U.S. flag and general officers to Taiwan, or senior officials.)

108th Congress. On May 20, 2004, the House passed H.R. 4200 (FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act) with Section 1013 to authorize the sale to Taiwan of a dock landing ship (Anchorage) as an Excess Defense Article and Section 1215 to require the Defense Department to send general or flag officers and officials at or above the level of deputy assistant secretary of defense to Taiwan (as proposed by Representative Jim Ryun). After a floor debate about whether his amendment was necessary or dangerous, the House passed it by 290-132. Supporters cited the Defense Department’s support for this policy change and challenges in Taiwan’s military in integrating new acquisitions and prioritizing self-defense needs against the PLA. Opponents cited resistance by the NSC and State Department, the TRA as existing authority for security assistance, and the need for caution in a tense part of Asia. On May 19, 2004, Senator Sam Brownback submitted for the record a similar amendment intended to be proposed to the Senate’s bill (S. 2400). However, on June 23, 2004, the Senate passed S. 2400 without considering or voting on such language. During conference, the House receded, and the conference report did not contain Section 1215 (H.Rept. 108-767, issued on October 8, 2004). President Bush signed H.R. 4200 into law (P.L. 108-375) on October 29, 2004.

109th Congress. In January 2005, eight Members led by Representative Rob Simmons wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to express concerns that the Bush Administration has delayed notifications to Congress on the three major items until after LY decided on the Special Budget. The State Department responded that it supports the President’s decision of April 2001 to make available to Taiwan P-3s, PAC-3s, and submarines, but that it does not believe “notification at this time will have any influence on the Taiwan Legislature’s decision.”²¹⁶ At issue are the Bush Administration’s effectiveness in encouraging Taiwan to boost its self-defense, extent of U.S. leverage in Taiwan, and risks in relations with Beijing.

On May 20, 2005, the House Armed Services Committee reported its National Defense Authorization Act for FY2006 (H.R. 1815, H.Rept. 109-89), again proposing language to change U.S. policy to allow U.S. flag and general officers and senior officials at or above the level of deputy assistant secretary of defense to visit Taiwan (Section 1203). Such visits would reciprocate visits by senior military officers and officials from Taiwan that already take place in the United States. Also, Chairman Duncan Hunter’s press release noted that the Defense Department

²¹⁶ Letters between the State Department and Representatives Rob Simmons, Lane Evans, Roskoe Bartlett, Chris Smith, John Hostettler, Madeleine Bordallo, Trent Franks, and Jeb Bradley, January 31 and February 15, 2005.

exchanged with the PLA over 80 senior-level visits in the 1990s and about 14 in recent years.²¹⁷ The bill added new language that would ensure that Capstone classes at the National Defense University (for new general and flag officers) conduct trips to the PRC and Taiwan (Section 528). The House passed H.R. 1815 on May 25 without debate on the Taiwan-related language. The bill reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 17, 2005 (S. 1042) did not contain similar sections. On December 18, 2005, the conference committee filed its report for H.R. 1815 (H.Rept. 109-360), after the House receded on the two Taiwan-related sections. The House passed the conference report on December 19, and the Senate agreed on December 21. The President signed it into law (P.L. 109-163) on January 6, 2006.

As mentioned above on the impasse over the Special Budget, on May 27, 2005, Representative Simmons and 32 other House Members wrote to KMT chairman Lien Chan, urging him to help expedite passage of the Special Budget in May. They warned that “failure to pass the special budget has raised concerns in the United States about Taiwan’s ability to defend itself against potential aggression.”²¹⁸ On August 1, 2005, three co-chairs of the House Taiwan Caucus wrote to Ma Ying-jeou as the new KMT chairman. They urged him to “lead efforts in Taipei to ensure that the Legislative Yuan quickly passes a special arms procurement package or increases its annual defense spending.” They also invited Ma to visit Washington.²¹⁹

On July 27, 2005, Representative Robert Andrews introduced H.Con.Res. 219 to express the sense of Congress that the President should abolish restrictions on visits by senior U.S. military officials to Taiwan and should authorize the sale of the Aegis combat system to Taiwan (among other stipulations).

As mentioned above on Pacific Commander Admiral Fallon’s questions about Taiwan buying submarines, eight Members of Congress led by Representative Rob Simmons wrote a letter in October 2005 to ask Admiral Fallon to explain his discussions with Taiwan on submarines.²²⁰ Also discussed above, in February 2006, Representative Simmons visited Taiwan and suggested a lower cost for the subs and an interim design phase to break the impasse over whether to procure U.S. submarines, and House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde wrote a letter to KMT Chairman Ma about the defense issues.

On May 3, 2006, the House Armed Services Committee reported H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2007, after approving amendments with relevance for Taiwan and the PRC that were introduced by Representative Simmons. The bill added new language that would make it U.S. policy to make available to

²¹⁷ CRS Report RL32496, *U.S.-China Military Contacts: Issues for Congress*, by Shirley A. Kan.

²¹⁸ Rep. Simmons, et al., letter to Chairman Lien Chan, Kuomintang, May 27, 2005.

²¹⁹ Letter from Representatives Robert Wexler, Steve Chabot, and Sherrod Brown (without Dana Rohrabacher) to Ma Ying-jeou, KMT Chairman, August 1, 2005.

²²⁰ Letter to Admiral William Fallon, Commander of the Pacific Command, from Representatives Rob Simmons, Dan Burton, Robert Andrews, Henry Brown, James Langevin, Phil Gingrey, Thomas Tancredo, and Patrick Kennedy, October 26, 2005.

Taiwan plans and options for design work and construction on future diesel electric submarines and would require the Navy to report to Congress on its dealings with Taiwan on the submarine sale (Section 1221). Other provisions would again seek to change policy to require at least one CAPSTONE visit to Taiwan every year (and one to the PRC) (Section 1205); to authorize general and flag officers to visit Taiwan (reciprocating Taiwan's senior-level visits to the United States and balancing exchanges with the PLA) (Section 1206); and to restrict procurement by the Defense Department from foreign firms that supply weapons to the PRC (Section 1211). On May 11, the House passed H.R. 5122 with these sections. On June 22, the Senate passed its version, S. 2766, without similar language, and incorporated it into H.R. 5122. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld wrote a letter to Congress on July 24, 2006, to oppose a policy change to allow generals/admirals to visit Taiwan, in line with the views of the State Department and White House.²²¹ So, for the conference report dated September 29, the House receded, and Sections 1205, 1206, 1211, and 1221 were deleted. On October 17, 2006, President Bush signed the bill (P.L. 109-364).

On June 28, 2006, Representative Tom Tancredo introduced an amendment (Section 801) to H.R. 5672, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations Act for FY2007, to ban funds from being used to enforce the State Department's guidelines restricting contact with Taiwan's officials. The House agreed to the amendment by voice vote. On June 29, the House passed H.R. 5672. The Senate Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 5672 on July 13 without that section. The Senate did not pass the bill. On September 7, 2006, the Senate passed S. 3722 (Lugar), the Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2006, that included authority for the President to sell to Taiwan two Osprey-class minehunter coastal ships. It was referred to the House as the last action.

110th Congress. On June 21, 2007, the House passed (by voice vote) Rep. Tom Tancredo's amendment to **H.R. 2764** (State Department appropriations act for FY2008) to ban funds from being used to enforce the "Guidelines on Relations With Taiwan" (Sec. 699E). (As discussed above, the guidelines include a ban on official travel by senior Defense officials and general or flag military officers to Taiwan.) The House passed H.R. 2764 on June 22. The Senate Appropriations Committee reported the bill (S.Rept. 110-128) without this section. The final version that became P.L. 110-161 on December 26, 2007, did not have the section.

Also, on July 31, 2007, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported **S. 1565**, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2007 introduced by Senator Joseph Biden, which would authorize the sale to Taiwan of two retiring Osprey-class coastal minehunters as Excess Defense Articles, among other foreign transfers. On October 23, 2007, the House Foreign Affairs Committee considered a similar bill, **H.R. 3912**, introduced by Representative Tom Lantos.

On September 26, 2007, the House Foreign Affairs Committee approved **H.Res. 676**, introduced by Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, that noted the Bush Administration's lack of response to Taiwan's interest in buying F-16C/D fighters

²²¹ Dan Blumenthal and Gary Schmitt, "A Strange Calculus," *Wall Street Journal*, August 21, 2006; and author's consultations, September 2006.

and that urged the President to determine security assistance “based solely” upon the legitimate defense needs of Taiwan (consistent with Section 3(b) of the TRA). The House passed **H.Res. 676** on October 2, 2007.

Also in October 2007, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, wrote to National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, noting that the Administration refused to accept Taiwan’s request for F-16 fighters and asking if it was subjecting Taiwan to “unequal treatment” in the FMS process. At a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in May 2008, the Senator said that Hadley still had not responded.²²²

In January 2008, Representative Joe Courtney wrote to Navy Secretary Donald Winter asking about the Navy’s understanding of Taiwan’s funding for a submarine design (phase one of the program).²²³ Concerning the Administration’s refusal to accept Taiwan’s formal request for F-16C/D fighters since 2006, Senators Tim Johnson and James Inhofe, Co-chairs of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, wrote a letter in March 2008 to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, asking if his department received such a request and offering their “assistance” if he needed it. Gates simply responded that Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Eric Edelman would answer the Senators. Edelman promised that the department will consider carefully any request from Taiwan for defense articles and services, “including replacement airframes.”²²⁴

On June 17, 2008, Representatives Joe Courtney and James Langevin wrote to Secretary of State Rice, requesting an explanation on the reported suspension of arms sales and timeline for notifications to Congress.²²⁵ In late June, Senators Inhofe and Johnson led a total of 14 Senators in sending a letter to President Bush, noting that a “freeze” on arms sales to Taiwan violates the spirit of the TRA and that their attempts to clarify the status of Taiwan’s requests have been to no avail. They requested a briefing on the status of arms sales and urged the Administration to expeditiously consider Taiwan’s requests. They wrote that upon receipt of Congressional Notifications, they look forward to the opportunity to work with the Administration in completing these sales as soon as possible.²²⁶ In late July, 25 Members in the House, led by a Co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus, Representative Shelley Berkley, sent a similar letter to President Bush, warning against a “freeze,” requesting a briefing on arms sales, and looking forward to the notifications.²²⁷ Also,

²²² Senator Lisa Murkowski, letter to Stephen Hadley, October 12, 2007; Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hearing on U.S.-China Relations, May 15, 2008.

²²³ Representative Joe Courtney, letter to Donald Winter, January 3, 2008.

²²⁴ Tim Johnson and James Inhofe, letter to Robert Gates, March 19, 2008; response letter from Robert Gates, March 25, 2008; letter to Senators from Eric Edelman, March 28, 2008.

²²⁵ Joe Courtney and James Langevin, letter to Condoleezza Rice, June 17, 2008.

²²⁶ Senators Inhofe, Johnson, Coburn, Vitter, Kyl, Brownback, Sessions, Chambliss, Martinez, Lieberman, Graham, Bond, Allard, Grassley, letter to President George W. Bush, June 27, 2008.

²²⁷ Representative Shelley Berkley, et al, letter to President George Bush, July 31, 2008.

Representative Ros-Lehtinen introduced **H.R. 6646** on July 29, to require the Secretaries of State and Defense to brief Congress on arms sales to Taiwan.

Major U.S. Arms Sales as Notified to Congress

The following table provides information on U.S. sales (not deliveries) of major defense articles and services to Taiwan, as approved by the President, proposed in Letters of Offer and Acceptance, and formally notified to Congress since 1990. Based on unclassified notices and news reports, this list includes the date of notification, major item or service proposed for sale, and estimated value of the defense package. The list was compiled based on unclassified notifications to Congress or announcements by the Administration as well as press reports. These were primarily government-to-government FMS programs. Major FMS are notified to Congress as required by Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), P.L. 90-629.²²⁸ Not all of these approved sales were necessarily purchased by Taiwan. There have been other transfers of U.S. defense articles and services not included in this list (that amounted to billions of dollars), including sales and technical assistance with smaller individual values not required to be notified to Congress, those with classified notifications, and other direct commercial sales licensed for export by the Department of State and notified to Congress under Section 36(c) of the AECA (but subject to the confidentiality requirements of Section 38(e)). There have also been leases of naval vessels and other equipment. Moreover, each year, hundreds of Taiwan's military personnel at different levels receive training and education at U.S. military colleges, academies, and other institutions or units.

Date of notification	Major item or service as proposed (usually part of a package of related support)	Value of package (\$ million)
1990		
07/26	Cooperative Logistics Supply Support	\$108
09/06	(1) C-130H transport aircraft	\$45
1991		
01/07	(100) MK-46 torpedoes	\$28
07/24	(97) SM-1 Standard air defense missiles	\$55
09/13	(110) M60A3 tanks	\$119
11/18	Phase III PIP Mod Kits for HAWK air defense systems	\$170
1992		
05/27	Weapons, ammunition, support for 3 leased ships	\$212

²²⁸ As with all U.S. arms sales, months or years *after* the President's decisions on Taiwan's requests and Taiwan's subsequent decisions on which sales to pursue, the role of Congress includes informal and formal review of major proposed FMS deals notified to Congress (during which Congress may enact a joint resolution of disapproval) as stipulated under Section 36(b) of the AECA. See CRS Report RL31675, *Arms Sales: Congressional Review Process*, by Richard F. Grimmett.

Date of notification	Major item or service as proposed (usually part of a package of related support)	Value of package (\$ million)
05/27	Supply support arrangement	\$107
08/04	(207) SM-1 Standard air defense missiles	\$126
09/14	(150) F-16A/B fighters	\$5,800
09/14	(3) Patriot-derived Modified Air Defense System (MADS) fire units ²²⁹	\$1,300
09/18	(12) SH-2F LAMPS anti-submarine helicopters	\$161
1993		
06/17	(12) C-130H transport aircraft	\$620
06/25	Supply support arrangement	\$156
07/29	(38) Harpoon anti-ship missiles	\$68
07/30	Logistics support services for 40 leased T-38 trainers	\$70
08/	(4) E-2T Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft ²³⁰	\$700
09/08	Logistics support services for MADS	\$175
11/04	(150) MK-46 Mod 5 torpedoes	\$54
11/09	Weapons, ammunition, and support for 3 leased frigates	\$238
11/23	MK-41 Mod (short) Vertical Launch Systems for ship-based air defense missiles	\$103
1994		
08/01	(80) AN/ALQ-184 electronic counter measure (ECM) pods	\$150
09/12	MK-45 Mod 2 gun system	\$21
1995		
03/24	(6) MK-75 shipboard gun systems, (6) Phalanx Close-In Weapon Systems	\$75
06/07	Supply support arrangement	\$192
1996		
05/10	Improved Mobile Subscriber Equipment communications system	\$188
05/10	(30) TH-67 training helicopters, (30) sets of AN/AVS-6 night vision goggles	\$53
05/23	(465) Stinger missiles, (55) dual-mounted Stinger launcher systems	\$84
06/24	(300) M60A3TTS tanks	\$223
08/23	(1,299) Stinger surface-to-air missiles, (74) Avenger vehicle mounted guided missile launchers, (96) HMMWVs (high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle)	\$420
09/05	(110) MK-46 MOD 5 anti-submarine torpedoes	\$66

²²⁹ Commercial sale. Opall Barbara and David Silverberg, "Taiwanese May Soon Coproduce Patriot," *Defense News*, February 22-28, 1993; *Military Balance 1999-2000*.

²³⁰ *Flight International*, September 1-7, 1993.

Date of notification	Major item or service as proposed (usually part of a package of related support)	Value of package (\$ million)
1997		
02/14	(54) Harpoon anti-ship missiles	\$95
05/23	(1,786) TOW 2A anti-armor guided missiles, (114) TOW launchers, (100) HMMWVs	\$81
07/24	(21) AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters ²³¹	\$479
09/03	(13) OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Armed Scout helicopters	\$172
11/09	Pilot training and logistics support for F-16 fighters	\$280
11/09	Spare parts for various aircraft	\$140
1998		
01/28	(3) Knox-class frigates, ²³² (1) MK 15 Phalanx Close-In Weapons System (CIWS)	\$300
06/01	(28) Pathfinder/Sharpshooter navigation and targeting pods for F-16 fighters ²³³	\$160
08/27	(58) Harpoon anti-ship missiles	\$101
08/27	(61) Dual-mount Stinger surface-to-air missiles	\$180
08/27	(131) MK 46 Mod 5(A)S anti-submarine torpedoes	\$69
10/09	(9) CH-47SD Chinook helicopters	\$486
1999		
05/26	(240) AGM-114KS Hellfire II air-to-surface missiles	\$23
05/26	(5) AN/VRC-92E SINCGARS radio systems, (5) Intelligence Electronic Warfare systems, (5) HMMWVs	\$64
07/30	Spare parts for F-5E/F, C-130H, F-16A/B, and Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) aircraft	\$150
07/30	(2) E-2T Hawkeye 2000E airborne early warning aircraft ²³⁴	\$400
2000		
03/02	Modernization of the TPS-43F air defense radar to TPS-75V configuration	\$96
03/02	(162) HAWK Intercept guided air defense missiles ²³⁵	\$106

²³¹ Taiwan reportedly ordered 63 AH-1W helicopters, 42 of which were delivered by early 2000, and Taiwan may order an additional 24 helicopters (*Defense News*, March 6, 2000).

²³² In 1992, the Bush Administration submitted legislation that Congress passed to lease three Knox-class frigates to Taiwan. Reports say that Taiwan leased a total of six (and subsequently bought them in 1999) and purchased two in 1998 (plus one for spares).

²³³ The sale of the navigation/targeting pods excluded the laser designator feature, but the Pentagon notified Congress on May 16, 2000, that 20 sets would be upgraded to include the feature.

²³⁴ Northrop Grumman delivered the first one on August 10, 2004, at St. Augustine, FL.

²³⁵ On June 23, 2000, the Pentagon notified Congress of a sale of 156 excess HAWK air defense missiles to Taiwan for about \$7 million.

Date of notification	Major item or service as proposed (usually part of a package of related support)	Value of package (\$ million)
06/07	(39) Pathfinder/Sharpshooter navigation and targeting pods for F-16 fighters	\$234
06/07	(48) AN/ALQ-184 ECM pods for F-16s	\$122
09/28	(146) M109A5 howitzers, 152 SINCGARS radio systems	\$405
09/28	(200) AIM-120C Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs) for F-16 fighters	\$150
09/28	(71) RGM-84L Harpoon anti-ship missiles	\$240
09/28	Improved Mobile Subscriber Equipment (IMSE) communication system	\$513
2001		
07/18	(50) Joint Tactical Information Distribution Systems (JTIDS) terminals (a version of Link 16) for data links between aircraft, ships, and ground stations	\$725
09/05	(40) AGM-65G Maverick air-to-ground missiles for F-16s	\$18
10/26	(40) Javelin anti-tank missile systems	\$51
10/30	Logistical support for spare parts for F-5E/F, C-130H, F-16A/B, and IDF aircraft	\$288
2002		
06/04	(3) AN/MPN-14 air traffic control radars	\$108
09/04	(54) AAV7A1 assault amphibious vehicles	\$250
09/04	Maintenance of material and spare parts for aircraft, radar systems, AMRAAMS, and other systems	\$174
09/04	(182) AIM-9M-1/2 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles	\$36
09/04	(449) AGM-114M3 Hellfire II anti-armor missiles to equip AH-1W and OH-58D helicopters ²³⁶	\$60
10/11	(290) TOW-2B anti-tank missiles	\$18
11/21	(4) Kidd-class destroyers	\$875
2003		
09/24	Multi-functional Information Distribution Systems (for Po Sheng C4ISR data link upgrades)	\$775
2004		
03/30	(2) Ultra High Frequency Long Range Early Warning Radars	\$1,776
2005		
10/25	(10) AIM-9M Sidewinder and (5) AIM-7M Sparrow air-to-air missiles; continuation of pilot training and logistics support for F-16 fighters at Luke AFB, AZ	\$280

²³⁶ On January 4, 2005, Lockheed Martin announced a letter of agreement worth about \$50 million for more than 400 Hellfire missiles.

Date of notification	Major item or service as proposed (usually part of a package of related support)	Value of package (\$ million)
2007		
02/28	(218) AMRAAMs and (235) Maverick air-to-ground missiles for F-16 fighters	\$421
08/08	(60) AGM-84L Harpoon Block II anti-ship missiles	\$125
09/12	(144) SM-2 Block IIIA Standard air-defense missiles (for Kidd-class destroyers)	\$272
09/12	(12) P-3C maritime patrol/ASW aircraft	\$1,960
11/09	Patriot configuration 2 ground systems upgrade	\$939